GMA to seek Pope's blessing for RP in visit to Vatican

Story on PAGE A2

Mirrors bad for exercise, says study

WASHINGTON—Mirrors are as common as paint on the walls of health clubs, but what is so inspiring about watching yourself gasping and drenched in sweat?

MIRRORS/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Inday writes finis

By Marinel R. Cruz

LOURDES JIMENEZ-CARVAJAL

INDAY Badiday, the queen of Philippine show biz talk shows, died early last night of a lingering illness at the St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City.

Inday—real name, Lourdes Jimenez Carvajal—had been con-

INDAY/ A4

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph | Saturday, September 27, 2003 ★★ 90 pages / 12 sections / vol. 18 / no. 291 P15 | website: www.inq7.net

The Boss, 'Da King' still in the running

Allies say Danding, FPJ may team up

By Christine Avendaño, Carlito Pablo and Michael Lim Ubac

MOVIE star Fernando Poe Jr. has not ruled out a run for the presidency in 2004, said former Sen. Ernesto Maceda, president emeritus of the Nationalist People's Coalition party of businessman Eduardo Cojuangco.

Maceda said Poe had met with Cojuangco last month and left NPC leaders with the impression that the popular action star was "still open to the idea of himself running in 2004."

At the same time, Maceda said, he was "98 percent certain" that Cojuangco would be running for President in 2004, and that if he did, it would definitely be under the opposition banner.

Poe has agreed to meet again with Cojuangco, known to friends and associates as "Boss," upon the latter's return from the United States on Oct. 2. It was yet another indication that the acknowledged "king" of Philippine movies was interested, Maceda said at a news conference.

Senate Minority Leader Vicente Sotto, who is negotiating with Poe for the opposition, said he could not reveal what they talked about but that the actor was "still weighing his options."

Asked whether the meetings with Cojuangco had to do with the possibility of their teaming up in 2004, Maceda said: "I don't know the details but I will not rule that out."

The NPC, the second biggest political party next to the ruling Lakas-CMD with which it has a working coalition in the House of Representatives, is set to hold talks on a coalition with the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, which had initiated moves to unify the opposition and field a single standard-bearer in 2004.

"There is no truth to the rumor that he [Cojuangco] might be the Lakas candidate because, for one, all our tactical and strategic planning is now already based on the conclusion that the President is indeed running in 2004," he said.

Lakas chair and Speaker Jose de Venecia earlier said the ruling party would convene its national direc-

THE BOSS/ A18

PRESIDENT Macapagal is welcomed by Secretary General Kofi Annan to UN headquarters in New York Thursday. AFP

Macapagal to attend OIC meet in Malaysia

By Volt Contreras
in New York
and TJ Burgonio
in Manila

UNITED NATIONS (via PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo has accepted the invitation of Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad to attend the opening and closing rites of the Organization of the Islamic Conference summit in Kuala Lumpur next month.

The development is seen as a boost to the Philippines' bid to gain observer status in the influential 57-member group of Muslim nations.

Victor Dimagiba, acting director of the Department of Foreign Affairs' Office of Middle East and African Affairs, said in Manila that it was unusual for such an invitation to be extended to the leader of a country that was not an OIC member.

The President met with Mahathir yesterday morning (Thursday evening in Manila) as part of her two-day visit in New York for the UN's 58th General Assembly.

Later she told reporters: "I'm one of the few non-OIC members invited to the OIC summit next

MACAPAGAL/ A18

Allies, foes want GMA to end suspense

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Gil C. Cabacungan

HER enemies and allies alike wish she would end the suspense and declare whether or not she would stand for election in 2004.

But President Macapagal-Arroyo will not be rushed into an answer though there may be a perceptible change in the tone and body language accompanying her replies.

Interviewed in New York over ABS-CBN television early yesterday, Ms Macapagal hedged but did not deny that she might reconsider her Dec. 30 announcement not to run in next May's elections.

"If I have a decision today, I will announce it. Right now, what I am thinking about is my trip here in the United States," the President told the morning show "Magandang Umaga Bayan."

She pledged to "do what's best for the nation" and let the public know "if I ever change my mind."

Asked if that meant that her earlier decision was bound to change,

ALLIES/ A18

Guingona backs poll findings on mutiny; AFP questions report

By Gerald G. Lacuarta and TJ Burgonio

VICE PRESIDENT Teofisto Guingona yesterday agreed that some of the grievances of the young military officers who staged the July 27 mutiny were legitimate and said the government should address these.

Guingona, who is government caretaker in the absence of President Macapagal-Arroyo, was asked to comment on a Pulse Asia survey showing that 55 percent of the respondents believed that the grievances constituted sufficient reason for the soldiers to rebel against the government.

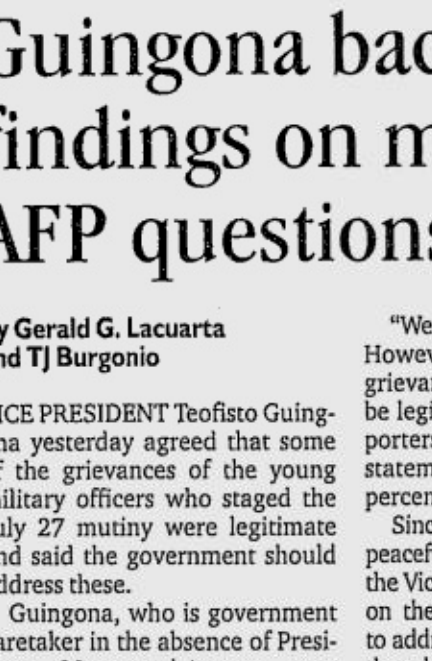
"We stand by the government. However, we should address the grievances, some of which may be legitimate," Guingona told reporters. "That is my original statement, so I belong to the 55 percent."

Since the days following the peaceful resolution of the mutiny, the Vice President had been calling on the Macapagal administration to address the grievances raised by the rebel Magdalo group.

But the military yesterday raised a howl over the INQUIRER report Friday which said that the majority of Filipinos thought the Magdalo group was justified in

GUINGONA/ A18

PRESIDENT Macapagal meets with Prime Minister Mahathir at the UN building in New York. The President accepted the Malaysian leader's invitation to attend the OIC conference in Kuala Lumpur next month. PCPO-MALACAÑANG



SYLVIA Ewing with son Phillip and daughter Julie, at right.

Fil-Am kills her 2 kids, then attempts suicide

LAS VEGAS—A Filipino-American woman accused of bludgeoning her two children to death and stepping in front of a truck in an apparent murder-suicide attempt had bouts of depression and talked of suicide, friends said.

Sylvia Ewing, 40, was upgraded to fair condition Thursday at a Las Vegas hospital after police said she killed her children—Julie, four, and Phillip, eight—with a baseball bat Tuesday in an apartment near Nellis Air Force Base.

She will likely be booked into the

FIL-AM/ A6

How many women suffer in silence?

By Tessa Salazar
Science/Health
and Christine Avendaño

TWO to three percent of female patients who have consulted doctors of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (POGS) were infected with sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) by their husbands or long-term male partners.

But the figure may just be the "tip of the iceberg," said POGS president Dr. Lyra Ruth Clemente-Chua.

"We may never know how many women suffer in silence," she said.

According to Department of Health estimates in 2001, there were around 2.2 million to 3 million chlamydia cases in the country, 281,000 to 683,000 gonorrhea cases and 80,000 syphilis cases.

A study in 1994 revealed that among female commercial sex workers, the prevalence of gonorrhea was at 16 per-

HOW/ A4

Kris, Joey talk on phone; Cory sorry

By Louie Camino

PARAÑAQUE Mayor Joey Marquez apologized to Kris Aquino in a mobile phone talk Thursday afternoon, but they are not back in each other's arms.

Lawyers for the actress and TV host yesterday said that on Monday they would file charges against Marquez, Kris' lover of one-and-a-half years whom she accused of pointing a cocked gun at her head during a fight last Monday night.

Also yesterday, former President Cory Aquino apologized for having said that Marquez should be thankful that her husband, Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr., was dead, or Marquez himself would be dead by now.

Ms Aquino's spokesperson, Deedee Siytangco, made it clear that the apology was for the "outburst" and was not meant for Marquez.

The INQUIRER yesterday confirmed that Kris and Marquez talked last Thursday when he called her on her cell phone from the cell phone of their mutual friend, actor and TV host Anjo Yllana.

"We talked," a source quoted Kris as saying yesterday, "because Anjo called and

KRIS/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2003

E-mail: pr_news@Inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Mindanao will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/27/03

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Pyramid 'queen' offers settlement

Philip C. Tubeza

PYRAMID scam suspect Rosario Baladjay has offered to pay back thousands of investors in Multitel Corp. who lost their money in a "quick-get-rich" scheme which eventually collapsed, Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño said yesterday.

Zuño said he has advised Baladjay's lawyers to organize a committee that would handle the proposed settlement agreement.

"Once all the claims are settled, then we will not object to her release but we will oppose their condition that the court order her immediate release," Zuño said.

Baladjay claimed that she still has P23 billion in her bank accounts to pay off investors whom she duped into investing in her dubious company.

But she stressed that the compromise offer should not be "considered in any way as an implied admission of guilt" on her part.

Baladjay is facing 99 cases of estafa filed by 516 complainants as of Aug. 29.

Last July 25, her lawyers notified the DOJ that they were prepared to settle.

They also promised to declare all of Baladjay's assets and bank deposits if certain conditions are met.

These include the setting up of a "management committee" composed of representatives from the DOJ, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), creditors and Multitel.

A special bank account would then be opened "under the joint signature" of Baladjay and an AMLC representative. All of Baladjay's declared bank deposits would then be placed in the joint account.

GMA seeks Pope's blessings for RP

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday she will stress her government's adherence to Catholic dictums like opposition to divorce, abortion and capital punishment in an upcoming meeting with Pope John Paul II.

Ms Macapagal, a devout Catholic, also said that she would seek the Pope's blessing "not for myself but for the country" when she visits the Vatican Saturday.

"I want to discuss how the policies of our government are in agreement with the teachings of the Catholic Church, such as the policies on divorce, on abortion and the death penalty," Ms Macapagal, who was in New York to attend the UN General Assembly meeting, told local media.

The Philippines, where more than 80 percent of the 80 million-strong population is Roman Catholic, is Asia's biggest Christian stronghold.

Philippine law does not allow divorce or abortion which are both barred by the Church.

In a gesture to the Church, the President suspended judicial executions but hinted that she would allow them in cases involving high-profile illegal drug kingpins.

The Catholic Church continues to have a strong influence in the Philippines where it is seen as a defender of the poor and of human rights.

However Church teaching against artificial birth control have also been blamed for hampering the government's population control programs, leaving the country with a population growth rate of 2.36 percent last year, one of the highest in Asia.

The meeting with Ms Macapagal will be the Pope's first major engagement since he resumed his official activities after intestinal problems forced the cancellation of his weekly audience Wednesday.

On Thursday, the 83-year-old Pope exhorted a group of Filipino bishops visiting him at Castel Gandolfo to have "a vital role" in the campaign against terrorism and violence.

The delegation was led by Lipa Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, whom the Pope had recently appointed archbishop of Manila, replacing the retiring Jaime Cardinal Sin. The Filipino bishops are in Rome for their "ad Limina Apostolorum," a pilgrimage to the tombs of Saints Peter and Paul, canonically required of all bishops every three to ten years, according to their distance from Rome. At the St. Peter's Basilica and the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, they venerate the Apostles and later meet the Pope to render an account of their dioceses.

The Vatican Information Service identified the other Filipino prelates as Bishops Emilio Marquez of Lucena, Bishop Rolando Tirona of Infanta, Archbishop Jesus Dosado of Ozamiz, Bishop Emilio L. Bataclan of Iligan, Bishop Edwin A. de la Peña of the Missionary Society of the Philippines, Marawi, and Archbishop Carmelo Dominado F. Morelos of Zamboanga.
AFP with a report from Jerome Aning

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As GMA's rating dives, foes gloat

By Michael Lim Ubac, Cynthia Balana and Norman Bordadora

OPPOSITION legislators yesterday savored the latest opinion poll showing President Macapagal-Arroyo's slumping public approval ratings and predicted nothing less than the end of Ms Macapagal's political career.

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla and Sen. Sergio Osmeña said they expect the President's approval rating to slip further after the visit here of United States President George Bush on Oct. 18.

Osmeña told a press briefing that he believed the President will never be able to recover from her low ratings despite her trip to New York, where she is sharing the limelight with world leaders in the United Nations General Assembly, and the Bush visit here next month.

Padilla, who claimed the President's people were "feverishly" working to capitalize on the Bush visit to improve Ms Macapagal's ratings, said the strategy would not work.

"The issues are corruption and incompetence and these issues will not be swept away by the Bush visit," the congressman said.

Public approval of a President depends on performance and not on her closeness to foreign leaders, he said.

"If she can lift the lives of Filipinos from poverty and joblessness, if she can give them a sense of hope, she does not need any props to win the hearts and minds of our people," Padilla said.

Osmeña claimed that since the election campaign season has practically begun, "more and more scandals committed by her administration will be coming to light."

"But the scandals are just icing on the cake," he said.

"It's the people's unhappiness with their economic welfare that will be the main reason for their voting yes or no to President Macapagal-Arroyo," he said.

In any country, rich or poor, the issue is always the "pocketbook, the economy, the jobs," Osmeña said.

"The majority (of Filipinos) feel that they are worst of today than they were when (President Macapagal-Arroyo) took office. And that's going to be the issue in the coming elections," he said.

Kris steals show from Jose Pidal

By Michael Lim Ubac and Christine O. Avendaño

JOSE Pidal has nothing on Kris Aquino.

The headlines blaring Aquino's violent split from Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez have displaced the controversy involving First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and alleged money laundering from the front pages.

And no one could be happier than lawyer Jesus Santos, counsel for Arroyo, who said yesterday: "(T)he interest of the people in this alleged exposé is already waning."

Santos said the public had grown "tired" of Lacson's exposé after the senator had repeatedly failed to produce any evidence against Mr. Arroyo.

He said the First Gentleman's camp does not believe Lacson was able to get any evidence to support his allegations of corruption and money laundering against Arroyo during his recent trip to Australia, the US and Hong Kong.

Santos said the First Gentleman's camp was "not bothered at all" by Lacson's threat to deliver a third privilege speech substantiating his charges against the President's husband.

Santos said he personally believes nothing would come out of Lacson's accusations, "because the senators would note that it is a plain waste of time and money."

"This episode of the alleged exposé of Senator Lacson should be closed and considered a bad dream," Santos said.

But the chair of the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee that is the lead panel hearing the allegations against the First Gentleman said everyone was a loser in the Jose Pidal case.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said the controversy involving President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband had caused her public approval rating to drop to an all-time low.

Arroyo said that aside from the President, "the Senate itself has been damaged as an institution."

He said that even Lacson, whose allegations the First Gentleman had used the alias "Jose Pidal" to hide multi-million-peso bank accounts had sparked the controversy, was not free of blame.

All the protagonists in this latest political saga did not gain anything from it, Arroyo said. "In other words, all the personalities ... have become losers. There are no winners."

The First Gentleman's spokesperson, however, yesterday dared Lacson to make his remaining exposé "outside parliamentary immunity."

At a press conference at the First Family's LTA Building in Makati City, Arroyo spokesperson Reuben Lim said Lacson should not wait for his third privilege speech to reveal his "explosive" evidence against Arroyo.

"If Lacson believes his evidence to be true, then he should not be afraid of any libel suits we might file against him," Lim said.
With Margaux Ortiz

Feliciano commission halfway through report

THE FELICIANO Commission is half-way through the writing of the draft of the report on the Oakwood mutiny last July 27, according to Carolina Hernandez, spokesperson of the commission.

Hernandez said that to speed up the work, each commissioner has been assigned to write a section or sections of the report.

"I would say each one (of the commissioner) is halfway through the draft," she said.

She added they are rushing the report to meet the Oct. 15 deadline set earlier.

But should they miss that deadline, Hernandez said the report would still come out within October.

"We would (already) like to wind up the work of the commission," she said.

The professor, however, would not divulge which part of the report she was writing, explaining she can only disclose the process and not the substance of the report at this time.

The commission, which had stopped the hearings, will continue to interview people if gaps in the data it has collected were found, Hernandez said.

She said they would have wound up the report earlier but they needed to talk to troops in the ground, and that took their time off from writing.

"We will come together some time next week (to assess our progress)," Hernandez added.

Luige del Puerto

OAKWOOD MUTINY

Gringo asks SC to stop DOJ probe

By Philip C. Tubeza

OPPOSITION Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan yesterday asked anew the Supreme Court to stop the Department of Justice from conducting further investigation into the coup d'etat charges filed against him for his alleged involvement in the failed July 27 Oakwood mutiny.

In an 11-page "urgent" motion, Honasan, through his lawyer Daniel Gutierrez, asked the High Tribunal to immediately issue a temporary restraining order against the DOJ panel investigating the case.

"There is a clear and imminent danger that if not restrained or enjoined by the honorable court, respondent DOJ panel shall commit the threatened acts complained of during the pendency of the case which would definitely cause substantial prejudice to the petitioner," the petition said.

Right to due process

Honasan argued that since the DOJ does not have the authority and jurisdiction over his case, he would be deprived of the right to due process and preliminary investigation.

The new petition came after Honasan filed a petition for certiorari on Monday asking the SC to transfer the conduct of investigation to the Office of the Ombudsman.

The DOJ, however, said that the case against Honasan is now considered "submitted for resolution."

Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño said that since Honasan failed to submit his counter-affidavit on Tuesday, the DOJ panel would now conclude its preliminary investigation based solely on the evidence submitted by the police.

"We made it clear that the Sept. 23 deadline was non-extendable," Zuño said.

Counter-affidavit

Honasan had earlier said that he would not file his counter-affidavit until after the SC decides on his petition to transfer the investigation to the Ombudsman.

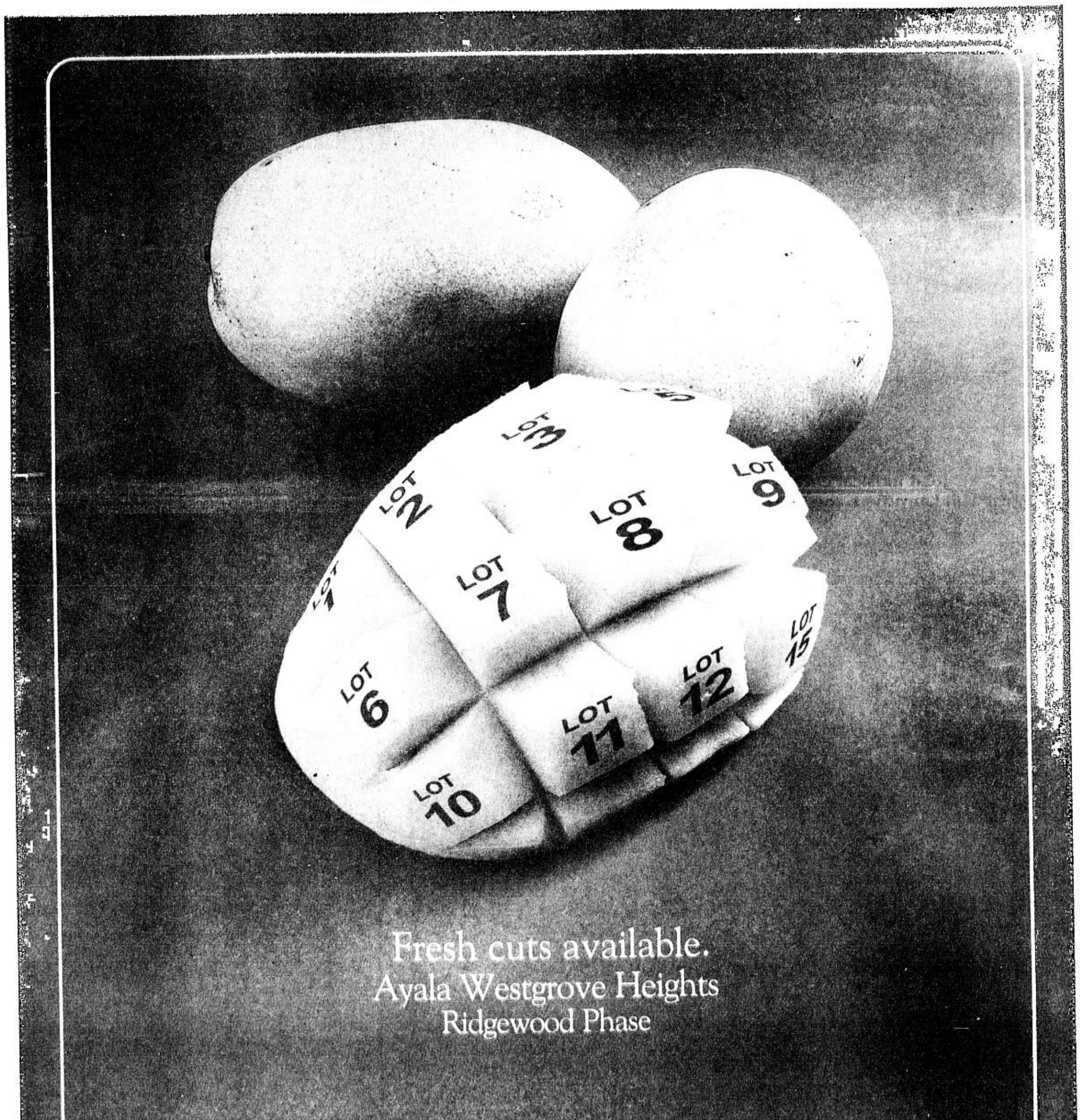
Honasan said the Office of the Ombudsman has proper jurisdiction over his case since the criminal acts he allegedly committed were done "in relation to his office."

"The DOJ has no legal authority to prosecute a public officer whose acts were performed in connection with his office," the senator said.

Order

But Zuño said that the DOJ has not received any order from the high court to stop its proceedings.

The SC on Tuesday ordered the government to comment on Honasan's petition for certiorari. Zuño said the Solicitor General might submit its comment on Monday.



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Kris, Joey talk on phone; Cory sorry

From page A1

said *Mare*, I think you should talk,' and then gave him the phone. Joey told me he was sorry."

Apologetic

A witness, who was with Kris when she and Marquez talked on the phone, said the mayor was "apologetic and *nanunuyo*, repeating that he was really sorry and he hoped she was okay."

Kris, according to the source, told Marquez, "You said I should tell the truth, that's what I did. I told the truth. But then you issued a statement, you went around, and you lied."

Kris soon hung up even as Marquez was still talking on the other end of the line, the witness said.

"Unfortunately," Kris added, according to the source, "he is of such low character that after his apology, he issued a statement denying everything categorically."

Marquez's statement was reportedly read on ABS-CBN's "Dong Puno Live" Thursday night.

"I am very angry," Kris said yesterday, her voice trembling. "I would have wanted closure, who doesn't? But he should have acknowledged that I wasn't lying."

In an interview Wednesday night on "TV Patrol," Kris told anchor Korina Sanchez that Marquez had threatened to shoot her, had infected her with a sexually transmitted disease (STD) in August, and had accused her of having other men.

STD claims

In an interview on GMA 7's "Frontpage" at the same time Wednesday night, Marquez denied Kris' claims and in turn accused her of inflicting bruises on herself and of having suicidal tendencies, among other allegations.

Told that Marquez was claiming he did not give her STD, Kris retorted yesterday, "Then why did he get treatment?"

Marquez also told the INQUIRER that Kris got the STD, a mild form of chlamydia, "from someone else" when he and Kris were not together."

"I have not had any sex partner but him," Kris said, her voice shaking. "You get the disease only through sexual contact."

Her lawyer Archie Fortun confirmed that he and her other lawyers are filing charges against Marquez on Monday.

"We're filing charges of physical injuries and grave threats," Fortun told the INQUIRER. "We're contemplating filing charges of illegal possession of firearms also. And we're definitely filing an administrative complaint of violation of the code of conduct for public officials. We expect the case to be forwarded to the regional trial court."

Former Solicitor General Frank Chavez yesterday said on radio station dzMM that he refused Marquez's request for him to represent the mayor in the expected legal battle with the Aquinos.

Chavez said he decided not to represent Marquez after a three-hour meeting with him. He said he learned in the meeting that there was information that could embarrass Kris and her family, and he wanted to spare her and the former President from that.

Ghandi

Former President Aquino was quoted as telling Kris' friends last Wednesday night, "*Pasalamat si* Joey, *patay na si* Ninoy. *Kung hindi, patay siya* (Joey should be thankful Ninoy is dead. If he were still alive, he'd be dead)."

In a signed statement sent to the INQUIRER yesterday, Ms Aquino said she was "sorry for having said" that.

"My emotions had gotten the better of me that night, after listening to Kris' revelations on TV," Ms Aquino said in the statement. "I wish to reiterate my firm commitment to non-violence as Ninoy had himself espoused and made clear in his prepared arrival statement for Aug. 21 (1983)."

The former senator was shot dead on that day at the Manila international airport as he stepped off the plane that had flown him in from Taiwan.

"According to Ghandi, the willing sacrifice of the innocent is the most powerful answer to insolent tyranny that has yet been conceived by God and man," Ms Aquino's statement continued.

"The past few days, I have been praying not only for Kris but also for Joey so that they will both be enlightened. I ask our friends to do the same and also to pray for me.

"Again," the statement concluded, "I am sorry for having allowed my emotions to get the better of me. I have always believed in non-violence and I ask all our friends and sympathizers to also commit themselves to non-violence."

Therapist

Thursday, one source told the INQUIRER that Kris' elder brother, Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, was overheard saying after her TV confession that Kris "has to start talking to a therapist."

"*Bantayan natin* (Let's watch her closely)," Noynoy was also quoted as saying Wednesday night at the former President's residence on Times Street in Quezon City.

On Thursday, a source quoted Kris as saying that she told all on the "TV Patrol" interview because "I don't want anymore skeletons."

According to the source, Kris admitted on Thursday, "I didn't want to talk. My mom said, 'she's not ready.' It was only my mom and Boy (Abunda, TV host and her close friend and adviser) who wanted me to tell the truth. I listened to them."

The source also quoted Ms Aquino as telling Kris before the TV interview, "I want you to defend yourself, but I don't want you to face the cameras if you're not ready."

"Boy, of all my friends from show biz, also advised me to tell the truth," Kris said, according to the source in the Aquino family.

When she decided she was finally ready, Kris faced the cameras and told everything.

Emissaries

Marquez yesterday told the INQUIRER that Yllana and talent manager Douglas Quijano had talked to Kris on Thursday to negotiate peace with her on behalf of the Parañaque mayor.

Marquez refused to elaborate, however, claiming that nothing was finalized.

"It's better if you just ask them the details," Marquez said. "Everything is still fuzzy. Nothing is clear yet. I am in a function and will call you later."

He was referring to three conditions that the Aquino family reportedly made in exchange for not filing charges against him.

With a report from Nini Valera

Inday writes finis

From page A1

fined at the hospital's intensive care unit since Aug. 18.

She was one of 10 children of the late Philippine Ambassador to Korea Nicanor Jimenez and Maria Clara Vega.

She is survived by her siblings, INQUIRER editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, Pacita Fontanilla, Tadeo Jimenez, Annette Jimenez, Butch Jimenez and Natividad Lingsiriewat; and children Dolly Ann Carvajal, an INQUIRER Entertainment columnist, Rikkie Carvajal and Clara Tagasa.

Inday started as a radio announcer specializing in show biz news.

In the early 1980s, she pioneered show biz talk shows and lorded it over the airwaves as the "Queen of Intrigue," hosting TV shows like "See True," which ran for seven years, "The Truth and Nothing But," four years, and "Eye to Eye," 10 years.

In the early 1990s, Carvajal produced the talk shows "Movie Magazine, "Isang Tanong, Isang Sagot."

She was credited with, among others, helping turn Nora Aunor into a superstar. She also helped create the famous "Guy and Pip" tandem of Aunor and Tirso Cruz III.

Inday was famous for her lines "Promise," "Careful, careful" and "Saranghameda" which was also the title of her radio show on dzMM.

She was hosting the Sunday morning talk show "Heart to Heart" on GMA 7 before she was confined in hospital.

Inday wrote a column, "Face to Face," in the Saturday Special section of the INQUIRER. She won numerous awards the recent of which was the Catholic Mass Media Award for best entertainment column in 2002.

The format of "Face to Face" later took on the form of a letter to her 17-year-old daughter, Clara.

Inday's inspirational writings will soon be compiled by Anvil Publishing into a book, "Dear Clara."

Her remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati City. Interment details will be announced later.

How many women suffer in silence?

From page A1

cent, chlamydia at 20 percent, trichomonas at 18.6 percent and syphilis at 4.6 percent.

The World Health Organization has estimated that there are 333 million STD cases each year worldwide.

Chua, who has been an OB-Gyn since 1980, said the most common sexually transmitted infection among their patients are trichomonas, gonorrhea and chlamydia.

She said POGS members go beyond mere treatment of their patients' infections—they also make the women aware of their rights as women, wives and mothers.

"We help the patient confront the problem," she said.

"Women are very vulnerable to STDs from promiscuous husbands. We would like to empower women to come out in the open even if it means washing your dirty linen in public," said Chua.

The doctors also encourage their patients to let their partners undergo treatment.

"We advice the patient not to quarrel with the husband or partner because the male partner would usually deny that it came from him since this is a reflection of promiscuity," Chua said.

Dr. Consorcia Quizon, leader of infectious disease surveillance and control project of the Department of Health, said it would be difficult to make one's partner admit that he or she was the one who contracted sexually transmitted infection first.

Surprising observation

The nongovernment organization WomenLead has observed that battered women who acquired STDs from their abusive partners decide to get out of the relationship and take legal action only after they realized that their partners already have other women.

WomenLead executive director Carolina Ruiz-Austria said their center has handled two or three cases of abused women who were infected with STDs by their partners.

"A lot of women take the blow because they rationalize that their partners will go home to them," she said. "But if they see a trend that their partners will leave them for someone else, they come forward."

Austria said the women who got STDs from their partners would reveal their infection to WomenLead staff only after much "deep probing."

She cited the case of a woman professional who sought to end her marriage with her abusive husband. It was only later when she revealed to WomenLead that she was infected with STD.

"When this was disclosed to us, it was just as an aside. It was not the main reason. It was more of the philandering of her husband (that she wanted to take action against)," she said. "It was on hindsight, she said that her husband might have given her a disease."

'Woman's disease'

According to Dr. Sylvia Estrada-Claudio, chair of Likhaan, an NGO specializing in women's rights, STDs are usually seen as a woman's disease when in fact women mostly get infected by their philandering partners.

"It's due to double standards," Claudio said. "Men are allowed to fool around, but not women."

Claudio said the STD cases that their centers have seen are the result of "various forms of abuses coming together."

The women who have STDs are also those who complain of battery and neglect, she said.

STI, not STD

Doctors say the more appropriate term for STD is "sexually transmitted infection" because at times the disease does not manifest itself immediately.

In terms of their impact on public health, chlamydia and (bacterial) vaginosis are not as life threatening compared to gonorrhea and syphilis, which could also cause infertility.

Any kind of pelvic inflammatory disease, in general, may also lead to ectopic pregnancies.

Since the infections are contracted through the sexual act, doctors say the "ABCs" of prevention would be Abstaining from sex, Being faithful to the partner and Consistently and correctly using condoms.

Self-medication for STDs is discouraged.

"The danger in self-medication is that the disease would not be properly recognized,' DOH's Quizon said.

The wrong medication for the wrong disease would not only not eliminate the virus, but may even increase the disease's resistance to medical treatment.

"This means drugs no longer have an effect on the infection," Quizon said.

Signs of infection

Doctors say women should be observant of their partner's behavior. If the husband/partner has exhibited a tendency to be promiscuous, women should not wait for confessions from the men. Instead, they should look out for signs of infection.

Initial signs are abnormal vaginal discharges. But this is hard to determine because vaginal discharges can be a natural occurrence for women.

Women should also watch out for pain when they urinate.

Some victims suffer unexplained fever and chills, which are indicative of urinary tract infection.

Some infections manifest as wounds.

Legal remedy

A woman can turn to the courts if she acquires an STD from her partner.

Lawyer Vladimir Alarique Cabigao of the Social Justice Society said a woman, even if she is not married to her partner, can file a case for civil damages.

Cabigao said transmitting an STD is not a crime per se in the country but a person spreading it deliberately is subject to quarantine laws and the penal code's provision on malicious mischief.

With reports from Jerome Aning, PDI Research

Rina C. Luna, mother of four and diabetic,
on PHARMACOECONOMICS

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SC justice gets death threat

Not from me, says Ping; NBI to probe funeral wreath

By Philip C. Tubeza and Tina Santos

THE SUPREME Court said yesterday that it will not be cowed by death threats after a funeral wreath was sent to the house of Justice Romeo Callejo Sr., the author of the tribunal's decision reviving the charges against Sen. Panfilo Lacson in the Kuratong Baleleng rubout case.

"(The justices) are not intimidated by this kind of things. Death threats are very common for them," said SC deputy court administrator Ismael Khan Jr. "This will not stop them from doing what they are supposed to do," he added.

SC Clerk of Court Luzviminda Puno said a funeral wreath was sent to Callejo's house in BF Homes, Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City yesterday morning.

Police said that a member of Callejo's household found the wreath in front of the house at around 8 a.m. Shock and fear gripped Callejo's household due to the incident.

Neighbors claimed they saw an unidentified man loitering in the area prior to the discovery of the wreath.

But despite the threat, Puno said that Callejo has not asked for additional security detail. Security, however, has been tightened around the SC compound in Manila.

Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong said he would ask the National Bureau of Investigation to look into the case and would provide additional security to the justice if requested.

"This should not happen to a magistrate of our Supreme Court because it is the bulwark of our democracy. I don't see any valid or justifiable reason for doing that to a good justice of the Supreme Court," Datumanong said.

In a statement, Lacson said that the funeral wreath was obviously meant to pressure the SC to immediately rule against him in the Kuratong Baleleng case.

He said those who sent the wreath wanted Callejo to believe that he was the one who sent it to convince the SC justices that their lives are in danger as long as the Kuratong Baleleng issue remains unsettled.

"This is certainly the handiwork of Jose Pidal's dirty tricks gang who are too desperate to put me behind bars and stop me from exposing the high-level corruption in the Arroyo administration," Lacson said.

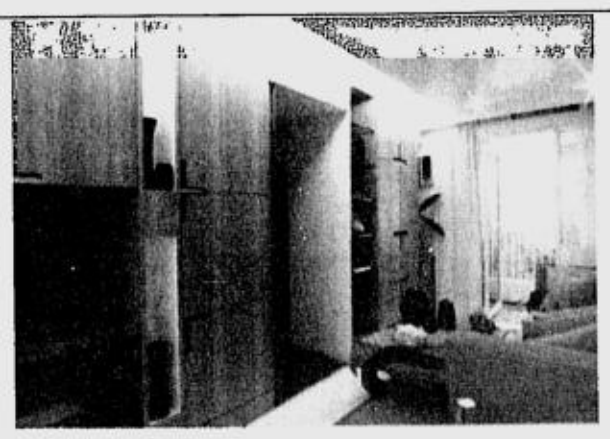
After arriving from abroad last week, Lacson said he would reveal more dirt on First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo in a third privilege speech when the Senate resumes sessions on Oct. 6.

Lacson earlier filed a motion for reconsideration on the SC decision to reopen the Kuratong Baleleng case. The Supreme Court is still deliberating on the motion.

If the SC upholds its decision to reopen the case, it would be up to the Quezon City Regional Trial Court to issue the arrest warrant.

Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida said that authorities are prepared "for any eventuality" if an arrest warrant is issued against Lacson.

One bedroom upstairs.



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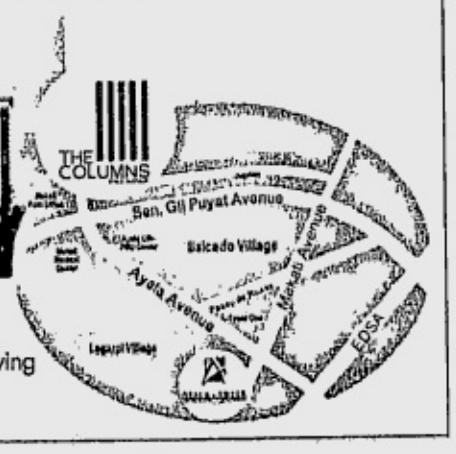

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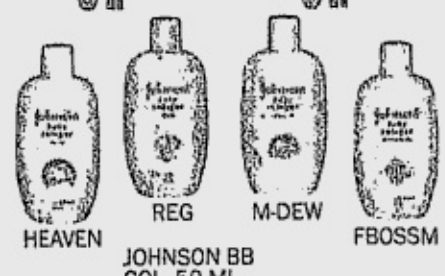

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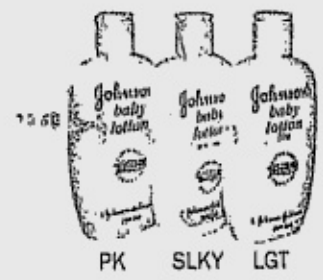

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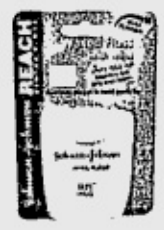

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Fil-Am kills her 2 kids

From page A1

Clark County Detention Center on two counts of murder with use of a deadly weapon when she is released from the University Medical Center (UMC), police said.

Friends and former neighbors in the quiet North Las Vegas subdivision where the Ewings lived for six years said Sylvia missed her family in the Philippines and was being treated for depression, but was a doting mother.

"She had talked about ending her life," said Jenny Levin, a friend and neighbor for six years in Ash Meadows Way. "I just told her... not to think that way because her children need her. It really upset me."

Levin also said Sylvia told her she wanted to get a job to "get out of the house" but felt she had to stay home to care for her young children.

Yvette Weigold, another former neighbor and godmother of the Ewing children, told the Las Vegas Review-Journal that Sylvia's depression worsened about a year ago but that she saw a doctor and was under medication.

Weigold, Levin and others said that although they knew Sylvia was depressed, they never would have believed that she was capable of harming her children.

"We don't understand why she did what she did. She wasn't a violent person. She wouldn't raise a hand on her children," Levin said.

Bludgeoned

It was Sylvia's husband, Daryl Ewing, 46, who found the children's bodies—one in the living room and the other in the bedroom.

The father, a trucker for a fuel company, left for work at 2:30 a.m. Tuesday, police said. Shortly afterward, the mother woke their two children and the three walked to a nearby WalMart where the mother purchased a baseball bat.

At 8:30 a.m., the mother threw herself in front of a tractor-trailer on Las Vegas Boulevard and Craig, witnesses said. She was taken to the UMC with critical injuries.

Unaware that his wife had been hospitalized, and the horror that awaited him, the husband arrived home later that day to find his murdered children.

"At 3:30 p.m., Dad returns home and when he walks back home, he finds both kids dead inside, bludgeoned to death with a baseball bat that was purchased earlier," said Lt. Tom Monahan.

Eyewitness News quoted sources involved in the investigation as saying that the Ewing children died around 5:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Neighbors supposedly told police they heard a commotion in the Ewings' apartment around 4:15 a.m. that morning. According to investigators, that timeline means the children did not have a "sudden death" and may have been alive as long as an hour after the brutal attack.

Inside the apartment was a one-page note that, police said, left no doubt that Sylvia was severely depressed and meant to harm her children.

Monahan said investigators "concluded from the note that [Sylvia] was the one responsible for the deaths of the two children, but there was nothing in the note that indicated she intended to take her own life."

Police declined to release the note, though one detective involved in the investigation said it made references to religion, stating, in part, "Jesus loves the kids."

Friendly family

Weigold described the Ewings as a friendly family that attended block parties and hosted barbecues before selling their home and moving six weeks ago to a two-room apartment in the Emerald Suites while their new house was under construction.

Ron Folle, pastor of the Lamb of God Lutheran Church, said that Sylvia and the children attended services often and that he was impressed by the mother's concern for them.

"I can't imagine this woman killing anybody," Folle said. "She impressed me as a good mother, and that's what I'm having trouble with."

Police said they knew of no evidence that the family was dysfunctional or had any prior history of abuse.

Weigold described the children as "great kids" and the family as "really nice."

She said, however, that Sylvia would at times become despondent and "pass out."

On these occasions, she would sleep the day away while neglecting to watch her children, Weigold said.

She said Ewing's problems worsened about one year ago.

"She wigged out," Weigold said. "She basically had a nervous breakdown. But she got help. She was evaluated and they gave her medication."

Levin said that most of Sylvia's family was in the Philippines and that she had been homesick.

Weigold said Phillip often played with her 8-year-old daughter and that Julie was a chatty little girl.

Several neighbors recalled that Julie was fond of bubble gum, answering cheerfully to the nickname "Sweet Tooth."

Levin said her 9-year-old son Zachary loved playing with Phillip, and that like all children, they'd have their spats. But then they would instantly miss each other and want to play together again.

"The last time I saw [Phillip] he knocked on the door and held out a piece of candy and said, 'This is for Zach,'" Levin said.

"Phillip was so shy up until last year, when he started coming out of his shell and became a little more outgoing," Weigold said. "Julie was just yak, yak, yak. She'd make me laugh. They were so sweet." *Reports from AP, Las Vegas Review-Journal, Eyewitness News*

Mirrors bad for...

From page A1

For exercise novices, not much, according to one study, which found that women who exercised in front of a mirror felt worse than women who exercised without them.

"Placing mirrors in exercise centers may need to be reconsidered, especially in centers that are trying to attract exercise initiates," said the study published in the American Psychological Association journal Health Psychology.

The researchers at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, looked at 58 sedentary women with an average age of almost 21. The women first answered questions about how they felt their bodies looked, how confident they were in their ability to ride an exercise bike, and what their mood was—whether, for instance, they felt "calm" or "worn-out."

The women rode the exercise bike twice, at a moderate intensity, for 20 minutes, one week apart. In one ride, they were in a mirrored room; in the other, the mirrors were covered by curtains.

After each ride, the women answered again the same sort of questions they had answered in the beginning.

When women rode while they could watch themselves in the mirror, they wound up feeling worse than they did when they could not look at themselves, the study found. For example, the mirrored rides left women feeling less calm and more fatigued.

This can't be simply a case in which women who watch themselves exercise come away with a worse opinion of their own bodies, said researcher Kathleen Martin Ginis, an associate professor of health and exercise psychology at McMaster.

These women on average were not overweight, and even women with high body-image scores felt worse after exercising in front of a mirror, she said.

Seeing other flaws

Other studies had found that gazing into a mirror tended to make a person feel worse, Ginis said.

It's not just the body, either. Even without exercise, periods of staring into a mirror make people start to think about their other flaws as well.

"We tend to be quite critical," she said.

Exercise, on the other hand, tends to leave people feeling better about themselves, and the study was designed to see if the exercise effect outweighed the mirror effect.

It did not, and the psychological tests picked that up.

"This is the kind of thing where people come away thinking, 'I don't feel that great'," she said.

Although the study did not look at men, Ginis suspects men might have some of the same reactions, although less strongly, because men tend to be less self-critical than women.

Do away with mirrors?

The findings, published in June, indicate that health club operators should start changing their decor, the researchers said.

"If a bout of exercise leaves a sedentary woman feeling worse than before she worked out, it will be difficult to persuade her to establish a regular exercise program," they said.

However, the bad experience with mirrors may not be true of more advanced exercisers, the study said.

Other researchers have found that highly active women who exercised in front of a mirror felt better for it, possibly because they got to show themselves how good they did.

And Ginis is not about to bring upon herself the amount of bad luck that would develop if every health club in North America trashed its mirrors on her say-so. *AP*

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MARCHING ORDERS

GMA to Ermita: Work silently

By Volt Contreras

UNITED NATIONS, New York—Work silently and you won't be an easy target for "opposition papers."

President Macapagal Thursday said this was part of her marching order for incoming Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita, who she said should steer the department clear of controversies by functioning "without fanfare and publicity."

Digressing from a UN-related statement, the President in a media briefing said she wanted Ermita to implement policies "quietly and in the sidelines."

"I'm taking this opportunity to give him his marching orders ... I don't want the DND to be at the forefront of controversial issues," she said.

Asked what particular issues raised against the DND had prompted her to issue such directive, she said: "The opposition papers, they put the defense department in a negative light."

Told of the President's remarks, Ermita, who was part of touring Philippine delegation, said he simply took this to mean that he should "continue implementing reforms without putting on a high-profile, without *pa-bongga* (gimmickry) and *pakitang-tao* (false pretenses)."

But he said this doesn't necessarily mean the pullout of the series of "infomercials" that the government came out with after the July 27 Magdalo mutiny. He said such TV spots merely wanted to show that the Filipino soldier was "not as deprived (*kawawa*)" as the rebel soldiers tried to project.

Also Thursday, the President announced the appointment of Commodore Tirso Danga as the new chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Danga replaces Gen. Pedro Cabuay who according to Ermita was merely holding the post in an acting capacity following the resignation of Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus.

The President noted that Danga was one of the "non-politician" negotiators for the government who met with the rebellious Magdalo officers to end the Oakwood siege without bloodshed.

Danga was then the camp commander of the AFP General Headquarters, Camp Aguinaldo.

Before leaving Manila on Wednesday, the President also named Teresita Deles, lead convenor of the National Anti-Poverty Commission as the new presidential adviser on the peace process, replacing Ermita.

In Deles' place, she appointed former Constitutional Convention delegate and House Secretary General Camilo Sabio, one of her opponents for the vice presidency in the 1998 polls.

Only 250,000 expected to enlist as absentee voters

By Martin P. Marfil

WITH only three days to go, the Commission on Elections said that it expects only 250,000 overseas Filipinos to register as absentee voters for the 2004 elections.

The latest data, dated Sept. 24, showed that only 219,722 overseas Filipinos registered worldwide.

Comelec officials said that they only expect about 250,000 out of the 7.53 million overseas Filipinos worldwide to register.

The largest number of Filipinos who registered were based in Asia-Pacific countries, followed by those based in the Middle East and Africa.

A total of 106,978 Asian-based Filipinos registered from Aug, 1 to Sept. 24 while 86,673 Middle East-based Filipinos joined the list-up.

Overseas registration ends on Sept. 30.

BAYLE

Pedro Bayle, San Juanico bridge designer, dies at 81

PEDRO Bayle, 81, the father of Filipino international fashion model Anna Bayle, died of heart failure on Sept. 14 at Saddleback Memorial Hospital Laguna Hills, California.

Bayle, a noted structural engineer, designed the San Juanico bridge, which spanned two major islands—Samar and Leyte.

Bayle had won awards for his design of steel pipes that consequently were used all over Japan and Indonesia.

He also designed the electrical steel pipes that were used when the Philippines converted from wooded electrical posts to metal posts.

He finished his Bachelor of Science in Engineering at the University of the Philippines. He took up his Masters in Structural Engineering at the Mapua Institute of Technology.

Bayle was also a professor of Building and Design in Mapua and of Structural Design at the Far Eastern Technical Institute.

Bayle is survived by his wife Elisea Aquino Bayle; children Jocelyn, Lamando, Wylma,Anna, Gynna, Hubert, Weiner and Harold and five granchildren.

Hypertension study stakes Sulit award

A PRESTIGIOUS award named after one of the country's most prominent and respected cardiologists has been launched to stimulate local research on hypertension by giving due recognition to outstanding research on hypertension and related cardiovascular disease by young Filipino physicians and/or scientists.

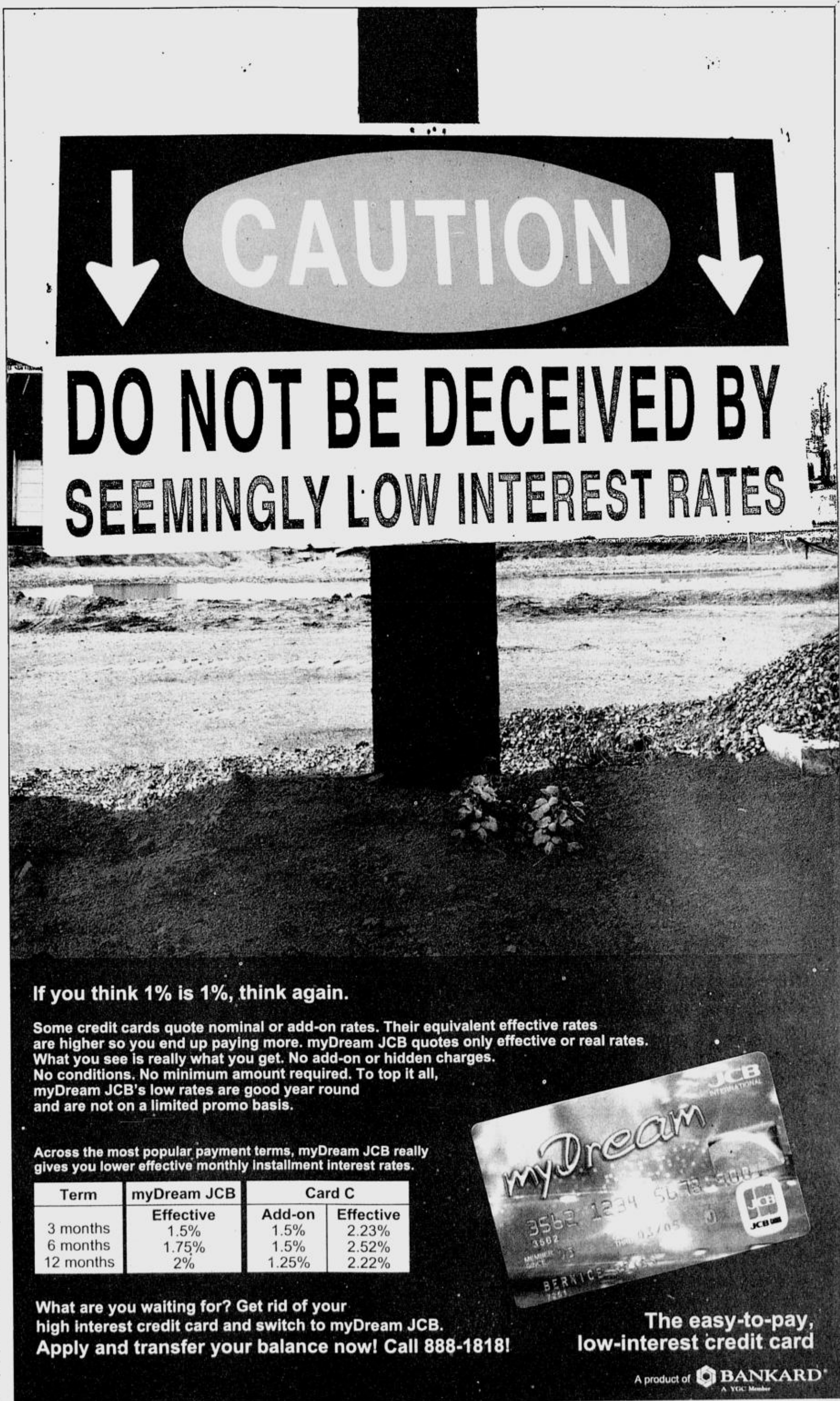
Billed as the 2004 Yolando Q. M. Sulit Young Investigator's Award, the annual search is being undertaken by the Philippine Society of Hypertension and Therapharma Inc. The awardee will receive P30,000 and an appropriate commemoration of the award.

The institution [section or department] to which the awardee belongs will receive a research grant of P15,000 and a commemorative trophy in recognition of their trainee's achievement.

The first runner-up will receive an award of P20,000 and his institution will receive a research grant of P10,000. The second runner-up will receive an award of P10,000 and his institution will receive P5,000.

Dr. Esperanza I. Cabral, PSH president, said candidates must be Filipinos under 40 years old and currently undertaking or recently completed residency or fellowship or a masteral or doctoral program. The research entry, she said, should be original and not previously published in any journal nor presented in any national or international forum.

The award will be presented at the 2004 Joint Annual Convention of the Philippine Society of Hypertension and the Philippine Lipid Society on February 2004.



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2003

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Black day in Iraq

Slain Iraqi leader buried; blast kills 8

BAGHDAD, Iraq—A mortar blast at a market north of Baghdad killed eight civilians after the United Nations announced plans to scale back its international staff because of the ongoing violence. Iraqis prepared Friday to bury an assassinated member of Iraq's Governing Council, the first leading administration figure to succumb to the violence roiling this country five months after the ouster of Saddam Hussein.

The blast occurred about 9 p.m. Thursday at a market in Baqouba, about 50 kilometers north of Baghdad. Eight civilians died and another 18 were injured, the US Army said. Troops of the US 4th Infantry Division rushed to the scene to help in the rescue.

In Baghdad, Iraqi leaders prepared to bury Aquila al-Hashimi, one of three women on the 25-member Governing Council, who died Thursday of wounds suffered in an ambush near her home Sept. 20. She was the first member of the council targeted for assassination and was the leading candidate to become Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations. She was to have attended the annual meeting of the UN General Assembly in New York this week.

The council declared three days of mourning that began Thursday and said Al-Hashimi "fell as a martyr on the path of freedom and democracy to build this great nation. She died at the hands of a clique of infidels and cunning people who only know darkness." The current council president, Ahmad Chalabi, blamed her death on Saddam loyalists.

Al-Hashimi died on a day when violence blamed on opponents of the US-led occupation targeted both Iraqis and foreigners alike. Early Thursday, a bomb damaged a hotel housing the offices of the US network NBC News, raising fears of attacks against international media. A Somali guard was killed and an NBC sound engineer was slightly wounded in the early morning explosion at the small al-Aike Hotel in the city's fashionable Karrada district.

In the north, meanwhile, eight American soldiers were wounded—three seriously—when their convoy was ambushed with roadside bombs and small arms fire in Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city. At least two Iraqi bystanders were also injured.

The commander of US forces in Iraq, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, warned he would use whatever force necessary to defeat those who attack American soldiers.

The inability of the US-led coalition to stop the violence was behind a decision Thursday by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to order a further reduction of UN international staff in Iraq. Annan's order came days after the second bombing outside UN headquarters in Baghdad on Monday killed an Iraqi policeman and injured 19 others.

The first bombing, Aug. 19, killed 22 people at the Baghdad headquarters. At that time, there were about 300 international staff in Baghdad and another 300 elsewhere in Iraq, and Annan ordered the number reduced to 42 in Baghdad and 44 in the north.

AKILA al-Hashimi during a meeting in New York with United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan. REUTERS

US spokesperson Fred Eckhard said he did not know how many international staffers would leave for Amman, Jordan, under the latest order. They are to depart within the next two days.

"This is not an evacuation, just a further downsizing and the security situation in the country remains under constant review," Eckhard said. *AP*

US clears troops in killing of 9 Iraqi policemen

BAGHDAD—The US military on Thursday cleared its troops of any wrong-doing in a shooting earlier this month that left nine Iraqi security men and a Jordanian guard dead from US fire in the town of Fallujah.

It also exonerated its men over an incident in Baghdad, where troops were accused of shooting dead two Iraqi policemen, one of whom was allegedly trying to surrender to them, and beating a third.

Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, commander of US ground forces in Iraq, said an inquiry into the Sept. 12 Fallujah incident concluded that the US soldiers "acted within the construct of their rules of engagement."

Col. William Darley, a US army public affairs officer, later said a probe into the incident in Baghdad on Aug. 10 that left the two Iraqi policemen dead had also concluded that "the soldiers had acted within the rules of engagement."

But no further details of either investigation were released.

A researcher for New York-based Human Rights Watch said he was "uncomfortable with the apparent lack of transparency in the process."

"It is clearly so upsetting for the Iraqi public that it's incumbent on them (the US military) to make public how they conduct their investigations and to be forthcoming with the results," said Fred Abraham.

Sanchez said at his press conference that it was "not standard policy for us to release investigation results," adding that these were only released if someone asked for them.

AFP spent more than a week telephoning and making personal visits to the coalition press center in Baghdad before it was provided with the results of the probe into the Baghdad incident that left two policemen dead.

A coalition official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said it was difficult to gather such information because of the number of people involved in the coalition effort.

"We had chicken last night for dinner. We don't post that. We can't post all the information we have," he said.

The coalition's information processing system is usually good enough for its spokespersons to be able on a nearly daily basis to give the exact number of patrols their troops have carried out, how many raids they conducted and how many weapons they seized across the country. *AFP*

Reuters complains to Rumsfeld over death of cameraman in Iraq

LONDON—The chief executive of Reuters news agency, Tom Glocer, has complained in a letter to US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld that the Pentagon failed to provide proper information about an investigation into the shooting of a Reuters cameraman by US troops.

Palestinian Mazen Dana, 43, was the second Reuters cameraman to be killed covering the conflict in Iraq.

A US defense official said Tuesday a military investigation had cleared US troops who mistakenly shot and killed Dana as he was videotaping near a US-run prison outside Baghdad on Aug. 17.

The prison had come under mortar attack the day before that killed six Iraqi detainees and wounded 59 others.

"I am writing to you again in order to express my deep dismay that neither Reuters nor Mazen Dana's family were properly informed of further developments in this case," Glocer said in his letter sent Wednesday and released a day later.

"Specifically, neither was advised directly of the completion and findings of your investigation, which were instead communicated in a haphazard way by a military spokesman responding to journalists questions in Baghdad," he said.

Glocer asked the US defense secretary "to ensure a full copy of the report is made available to Reuters and Mazen Dan's family." "I am sure you will agree that it is crucial that such tragic deaths are avoided in the future," he added.

Ukrainian-born Taras Protsyuk, 35, who also worked for Reuters as cameraman, died April 8 when a US tank opened fire on Baghdad's Palestine Hotel.

Glocer called for the Pentagon to help establish clear guidelines on how journalists and the military interact.

Dana's death came days after a controversial military investigation cleared US forces of improper conduct in the firing on the Palestine hotel, which was filled with foreign journalists. *AFP*

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IN THE MATTER OF

PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF REHABILITATION PLAN AND FOR APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT REHABILITATION RECEIVER

APRIL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION and RAPID FORMING CORPORATION
Petitioner

ORDER

Before [illegible] a verified petition/application for rehabilitation filed by the above-named petitioners

Briefly, the petitioners contend that on the basis of projected market conditions for the next fifteen (15) years, they have a good chance of being rehabilitated. Their rehabilitation plan calls for the rescheduling/restructuring of approximately PhP1,012,100,000.00 outstanding loans as of June 30, 2003 with a three-year grace period and forty nine (49) quarterly payments commencing at the end of the first quarter of the third year until finally entirely with interest due up to August 31, 2003 to be paid/owed as mutually previously agreed with individual creditors and interest from September 1, 2003 to September 30, 2003 to be paid at the rate of one percent (1%) over the 91-day T-Bill rate and interest from 2004 up to 2018 ranging from seven percent (7%) up to eighteen percent (18%) per annum. By reduction of their debt burden [illegible] on page 01 all their non-core assets through appropriate selling procedure, among other things. Consequently, they pray for the immediate issuance of a Stay Order pending proceedings before this Court and the appointment of a rehabilitation receiver.

[illegible]

WHEREFORE, [illegible] hereby as follows:

Appointing Mr. Leandro D. Javier, a Bachelor of Science in Commerce, major in Accounting graduate, as rehabilitation receiver, who shall be considered as an officer of the court and who shall have the powers, duties and functions as provided in Section 34, Rule 4 of the aforesaid Interim Rules. The rehabilitation receiver must post a bond of PhP1,500,000.00 before entering upon his powers, duties and functions and must take an oath, as provided under Section 15, Rule 4 of the aforesaid Interim Rules. The petitioners are directed to serve immediately a copy of this Stay Order upon the rehabilitation receiver, Mr. Leandro D. Javier who shall manifest his acceptance or non-acceptance of his appointment not later than ten (10) days from receipt hereof.

[illegible]

Prohibiting the petitioners [illegible] except in the ordinary course of business;

Prohibiting the suppliers of the petitioners from withholding supply of goods and services in the ordinary course of business for as long as the petitioners make payments for the services and goods supplied after the issuance of this Stay Order;

[illegible] all administrative expenses incurred after the issuance of this Stay Order.

The initial hearing on the petition is set on October 21, 2003 at Tuesday at 2:00 P.M. in the session room of this Court located at the Ground Floor of the Bulwagang Hustisya Building, Quezon City Hall Complex, Quezon City. All creditors and all interested parties including the Securities and Exchange Commission are directed to file with this Court and serve upon the petitioners a verified comment on or opposition to the petition with supporting affidavits and documents, not later than ten (10) days before the date of the initial hearing as stated above and they are put on notice that failure to do so will bar them from participating in the proceedings before this Court except as the petitioners and to the petition and to prepare them for the initial [illegible]. All creditors and all interested parties are further directed to secure from this Court copies of the petition and its annexes and to obtain this purpose, the petitioners are ordered to file with the Court [illegible] additional copies within two (2) days from receipt hereof.

The petitioners are furthermore directed to publish a copy of this Order in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, and one other newspaper of general circulation with wide-spread circulation in Cebu, Visayas and Mindanao if there is no newspaper other than the herein named newspaper chosen by raffle, considering the business properties in Davao and Visayas as alleged in the petition, once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks, with the last publication effected at least three (3) weeks prior to the date of initial hearing, at their expense, proof of which shall be submitted to this Court, and furnish copies of this Order to all interested persons, at the expense of the petitioners.

The Process Server of this Court is hereby ordered to serve copies of this Stay Order upon [illegible] Mr. Peter Rafael [illegible] and Mr. Jose Arellano (President of petitioners), c/o JAPRI Bldg. Daniel R. Aguinaldo, Jesus Dela Peña Extension, [illegible] Mr. Eduardo David Javier, 240 Aguinaldo Street, Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City, at the Honorable Chairman, Manila Stock Exchange, [illegible] Philippine Stock Exchange Tower, Makati City, at the Securities and Exchange Commission, Makati City, at the Honorable Chairman, Manila Electric Co.

SO ORDERED.

[illegible], September [illegible], 2003.

BYBAN DE DAWA
Presiding Judge

TIT FOR TAT—Two in a pack of Russian playing cards of leading US political figures show US National Security Advisor Condoleeza Rice as the queen of diamonds and US President George W. Bush as the jack of hearts. A Russian newspaper has trumped the US government with playing cards featuring top US politicians, a take off of the Iraqi most-wanted decks issued during the Iraq war earlier this year. REUTERS

Congress report says Cheney-Halliburton ties continue

WASHINGTON—A report by the Congressional Research Service undermines Vice President Dick Cheney's denial of a continuing relationship with Halliburton Co., the energy company he once led, Sen. Frank Lautenberg said Thursday.

The report says a public official's unexercised stock options and deferred salary fall within the definition of "retained ties" to his former company.

Cheney said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press" that since becoming vice president, "I've severed all my ties with the company, gotten rid of all my financial interest. I have no financial interest in Halliburton of any kind and haven't had, now, for over three years."

Democrats pointed out that Cheney receives deferred compensation from Halliburton under an arrangement he made in 1998, and also retains stock options. He has pledged to give after-tax proceeds of the stock options to charity.

Cheney's aides defended the assertion on NBC, saying the financial arrangements do not constitute a tie to the company's business performance. They pointed out that Cheney took out a $15,000 insurance policy so he would collect the deferred payments over five years whether or not Halliburton remains in business.

Lautenberg asked the Congressional Research Service to weigh in.

Without naming Cheney or Halliburton, the service reported that unexercised stock options and deferred salary "are among those benefits described by the Office of Government Ethics as 'retained ties' or 'linkages' to one's former employer."

Lautenberg said the report makes clear that Cheney does still have financial ties to Halliburton. "I ask the vice president to stop dodging the issue with legalese," Lautenberg said.

Cathie Martin, Cheney's spokeswoman, said the question is whether Cheney has any possible conflict of interest with Halliburton, "and the answer to that is, no."

Cheney was chief executive officer of Halliburton from 1995 through August 2000. The company's KBR subsidiary is the main government contractor working to restore Iraq's oil industry in an open-ended contract that was awarded without competitive bidding. *AP*

Largest Bosnian mass grave yields 600 bodies

SARAJEVO—The remains of 565 people have so far been recovered from the largest mass grave from Bosnia's 1992-1995 war, a local official said Thursday.

"So far we have found the remains of 565 people," said Ismet Music, a member of the Bosnian Muslim commission for missing people.

"There were 421 complete skeletons and another 144 with some limbs or skull missing," he said.

Forensic experts say they expect to exhume about 40 more bodies from the grave, taking the total number recovered from the site over 600.

Music said clothing and personal documents found with the dead showed they were Muslim civilians believed to have been killed by Bosnian Serb forces during the war.

The grave, 40 meters long and four meters deep, is in mountainous countryside near the eastern town of Zvornik.

The site is within the Serb-run part of Bosnia—which was split into Serb and Muslim-Croat entities after the war—some 80 km northeast of Sarajevo.

In one corner of the grave, investigators found 11 skeletons of children aged between 18 months and 12 years, along with with those of 12 women believed to be their mothers.

After almost two months of digging, forensic experts expect to complete work at the site by the end of next week.

Identification documents found in the grave show that at least some of the victims were Muslim civilians from Zvornik and the nearby towns of Vlasenica and Bratunac, who were executed when Bosnian Serb forces captured them at the outset of the war.

The site is a so-called "secondary" grave where Bosnian Serbs brought bodies from other areas in order to cover up their crimes.

In mid-1992 Bosnian Serbs backed by the former Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) seized mainly Muslim eastern Bosnia, which includes Zvornik, and victimized its non-Serb residents.

Some 1,500 Zvornik residents are still missing following the Serbs' notorious wartime campaign of ethnic cleansing. Around 350 bodies have been found in mass graves in the area.

Almost eight years after the end of the war, the fate of more than 16,000 missing people is still not known, according to the Red Cross. *AFP*

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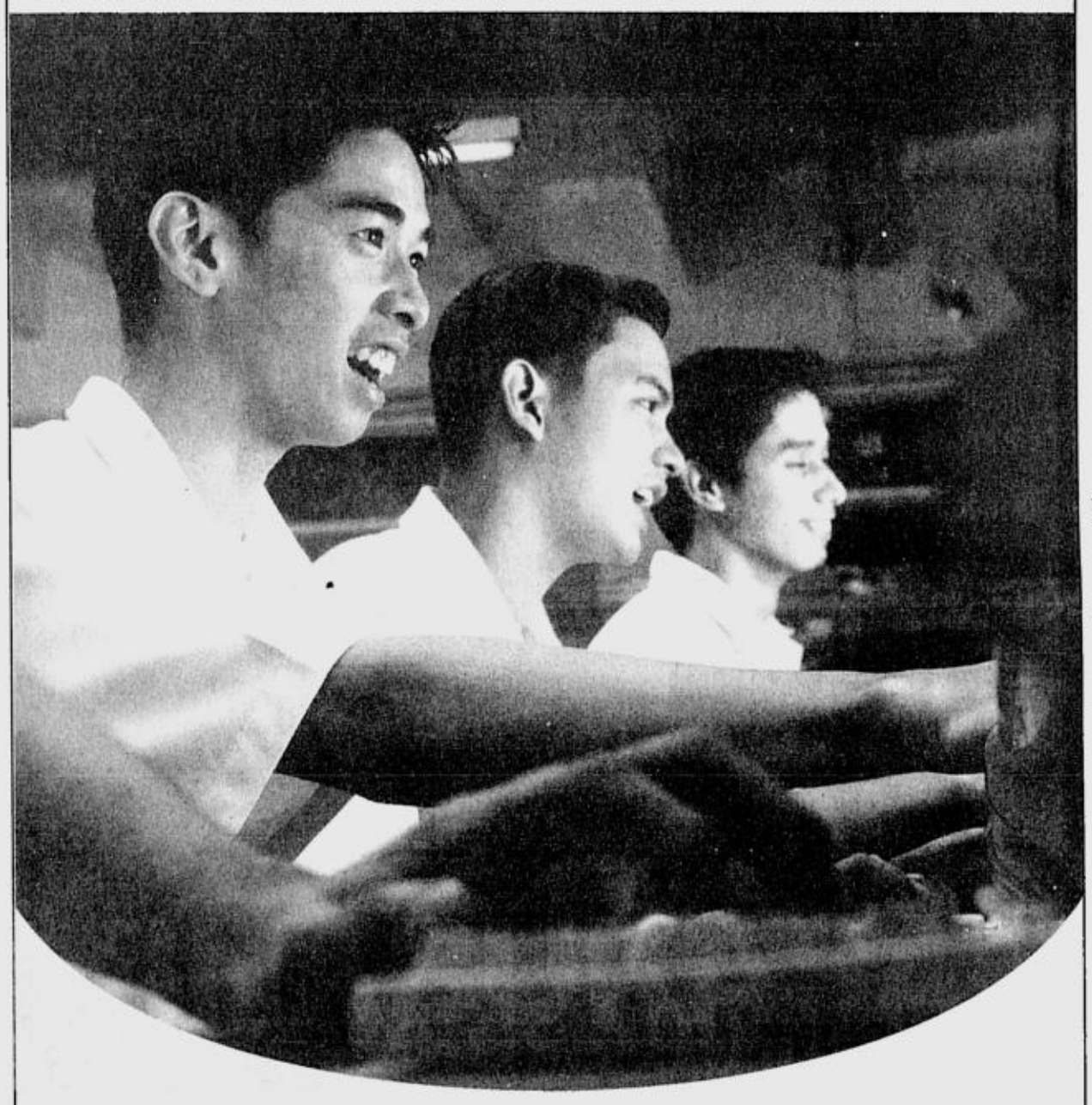

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PHILIPPINE The W

Supporters hail Nigeria court ruling sparing mother from death by stoning

KATSINA, Nigeria—A Nigerian single mother was spared from a sentence of death by stoning on Thursday when an Islamic court overturned her conviction for adultery in a case that has caused an international outcry over human rights in the west African country.

Amina Lawal's supporters hailed the four-to-one majority ruling by a panel of Katsina State's top Islamic lawyers as a vital step forward in ensuring the legal rights of Nigeria's more than 60 million Muslims.

"It's a victory for law, it's a victory for justice. Today we are celebrating the victory of law over the rule of man," said Lawal's friend and lawyer, Hauwa Ibrahim.

"Amina is free. Amina has been discharged. Amina can have her life back," she told reporters outside the court, as Lawal and her baby daughter Wasila were whisked away in a police vehicle with a heavily armed escort.

Lawal, a 31-year-old village housewife, was last year convicted of adultery under the strict Sharia legal code and faced becoming the first person to be stoned to death since its controversial reintroduction in Nigeria, mainly in the northern, predominantly Muslim states.

She appeared before Katsina Sharia Appeal Court in a peach-colored embroidered veil, cradling Wasila, who has grown a thick head of curls since making her first public appearance at her mother's trial in March last year, when she was only a few months old.

Since then, photographs of mother and child sitting in front of panels of robed judges have flashed around the world, and the case has become the center of an international dispute over Sharia's harsh punishments.

Katsina Deputy Gov. Abdullahi Garba Aminchi told AFP that the state was "in totality with the judgment" of the court.

"We welcome the judgment in this case because this is due process of the court," he told AFP.

Lawal's acquittal came as a relief to Nigeria's top labor leader, who said President Olusegun Obasanjo's secular federal government had narrowly escaped more global protest.

"The verdict has saved us a lot of embarrassment," Nigerian Labor Congress leader Adams Oshiomhole said. "We are all happy for her and for ourselves. We thank God that it has ended that way."

European governments also were quick to back Lawal's acquittal.

"We are obviously pleased with this decision," said French foreign ministry spokesperson Cecile Pozzo di Borgo. "In concert with our European Union partners, we had at the outset expressed our concern to the Nigerian authorities." *AFP*

AMINA Lawal, holding her baby Wasila at the court in Katsina, Nigeria, Sept. 25, was sentenced in March 2002 to be buried up to her neck in sand and then stoned for giving birth to a child out of wedlock. AP

Pope recovers, resumes schedule after absence

VATICAN CITY—Pope John Paul II resumed his regular schedule Thursday and returned to Vatican City from his vacation home, indicating he had recovered from the mild intestinal problem that forced him to skip his general audience a day earlier.

The Pope waved to passersby as he left Castel Gandolfo, his summer residence in the Alban hills south of Rome where he had been living for more than two months. His motorcade pulled into Vatican City a short time later.

The 83-year-old Pontiff had been expected to make the trip on Friday; no reason was given for the change. Officials similarly said no announcement on the Pope's condition was planned, calling this an indication that John Paul was clearly better.

The Pope's rare absence at Wednesday's general audience raised fresh concerns about his health just weeks before he presides at ceremonies marking his 25th anniversary as pope.

But he kept to a normal schedule Thursday, meeting with visiting bishops from the Philippines, the mayor and other officials of Castel Gandolfo for a customary farewell and with the security forces who protected him at the lakeside palace.

The Pope told the security forces he would pray for them. "And I also ask you to pray for me and for my daily service to the Church," he said, adding that he asked for particular prayers for his upcoming pilgrimage to Pompeii, in southern Italy.

Italian news reports said the Pope may name new cardinals on Sunday, thus allowing the new "red hats" to come to Rome at the time of the anniversary celebrations. By tradition, cardinals are installed about 30 days after their names are announced. *AP*

SAID addressing students of the American University in Cairo March 17. AFP

Palestinian scholar Edward Said dies in NY

NEW YORK—Columbia University literary scholar Edward W. Said, the nation's foremost Arab intellectual and advocate for the Palestinian cause, has died of leukemia. He was 67.

Said was a leading member of the Palestinian parliament-in-exile for 14 years, stepping down in 1991. The university said Said died Thursday, but his publisher said he died late Wednesday.

He wrote passionately about the Palestinian cause and a variety of other subjects, including English literature—his academic specialty—as well as music and culture.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan "heard with great sadness of the death of Edward Said ... who did so much to explain the Islamic world to the West, and vice versa," Annan's office said in a statement.

"While not sharing all of Professor Said's opinions, the Secretary General always enjoyed his company, savored his wit, and admired the passion with which he pursued his vision of peace between Israelis and Palestinians," the statement said.

Said (pronounced sye-EED) was born in 1935 in Jerusalem, then part of British-ruled Palestine, but spent most of his adult life in the United States.

On the Arab-Israeli conflict, he was consistently critical of Israel's policies toward the Palestinians.

Two years ago, he said that Israel's "efforts toward exclusivity and xenophobia toward the Arabs" had actually strengthened Palestinian determination.

"Palestine and Palestinians remain, despite Israel's concerted efforts from the beginning either to get rid of them or to circumscribe them so much as to make them ineffective," Said wrote in the English-language Al-Ahram Weekly, published in Cairo.

After the signing of the Oslo peace accords in 1993 between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, Said criticized Yasser Arafat for making what he regarded as a bad deal for the Palestinians. He said Arafat and the Palestinian Authority had become "willing collaborators with the (Israeli) military occupation, a sort of Vichy government for Palestinians." *AP*

Magnitude 8 quake hits Hokkaido, hurts hundreds

OBIHIRO, Japan—A powerful, magnitude-8 earthquake rocked Japan's northern island of Hokkaido early Friday, injuring more than 246 people, knocking out power, derailing a train and touching off an industrial fire.

The quake—the strongest anywhere in the world this year—forced the evacuation of some 41,000 people and left some 16,000 homes blacked out.

There were no immediate reports of deaths directly caused by the quake, which struck at 4:50 a.m., cracking roads, capsizing fishing boats and causing the roof of a local airport to partially cave in.

The temblor was centered in the Pacific about 100 kilometers off Hokkaido's eastern shore. It was followed by two strong aftershocks and several small tsunami waves.

Police officials confirmed at least 246 people were hurt, 18 of them seriously. Most of the injuries were caused by glass from shattered windows and falling objects in homes.

"It shook hard and long and I was very frightened," said Eri Takizawa, a city official in Kushiro, 890 km northeast of Tokyo, which was believed to be the hardest hit. "We have small quakes here from time to time, but this was completely different."

Damage was lighter but also evident in this Hokkaido city, about 100 km away from Kushiro.

The temblor had a magnitude of 8, Japan's Central Meteorological Agency said. An earthquake of that magnitude is capable of causing tremendous damage.

A powerful aftershock of magnitude 7 followed shortly after 6 a.m., and another hit at about 8 a.m. The agency said there were more than a dozen smaller aftershocks by late morning.

The government warned residents to avoid coastal areas due to the possibility of tsunami, or ocean waves caused by seismic activity.

The Meteorological Agency said a tsunami of about 1.3 meters had struck Kushiro, a city of about 200,000. There were no immediate reports of damage from the wave.

Because of the threat of tsunami, aftershocks or the collapse of already damaged buildings, 41,000 people were either evacuating their homes to local shelters or had been advised to do so, according to Kazuhiko Kunii, a spokesperson for the National Fire Agency.

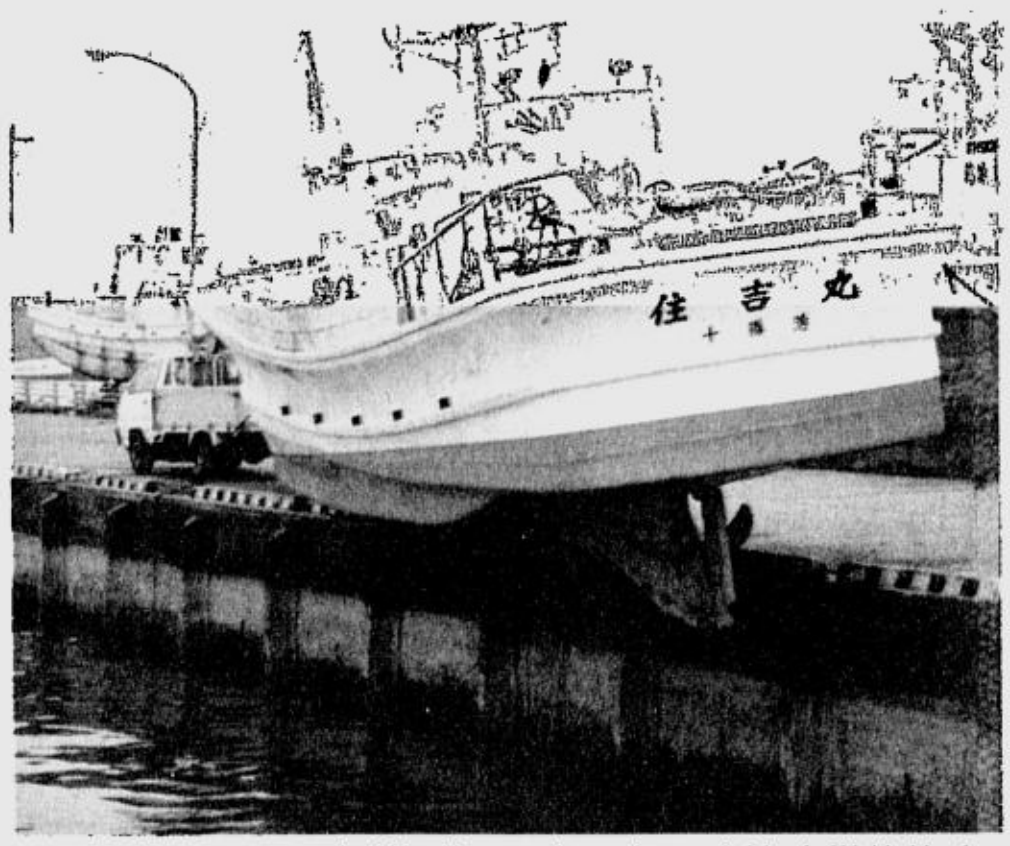
Officials said most of the injured were hit by falling shelves and other toppled objects. One 70-year-old woman was being treated at a hospital in this city after breaking her leg as she was trying to leave her house through a window.

Huge cracks forced the closure of local highways, water was cut off and regional airports were closed for inspection. Hokkaido Electric Power Co. official Yoshihiro Akiyama said it was unclear when power could be restored to the blacked-out homes, mostly in and around Kushiro.

A fire broke out at an oil tank in the city of Tomakomai, but no workers were reported injured, said Hokkaido prefectural police official Kuniyoshi Omori. Black plumes of smoke and flames leapt from the tank, which police said belonged to Idemitsu Co. The fire was contained within three hours.

Nuclear power facilities on Hokkaido were inspected after the quake, but officials said there was no evidence of any damage or safety breaches.

Omori said one person was injured when a local train carrying about 39 passengers derailed. Kushiro airport was temporarily closed after part of a roof caved in, and several roads were blocked by landslides. *AP*



A FISHING boat is run aground at Tokachi port on the northern main island of Hokkaido after a tidal wave hit the area Sept. 26 following a series of powerful earthquakes which jolted the island early on Friday. REUTERS/KYODO

Suu Kyi allowed to return home after surgery but under house arrest

RANGOON—Burma's democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi returned to her Rangoon home on Friday after more than three months in detention but with the military government screening her visitors, her doctor said.

Suu Kyi was driven from the heavily guarded hospital where she had surgery a week ago to her lakeside home in central Rangoon where her doctor said she would be under house arrest.

A government statement confirmed that she had returned home, but did not say whether she was in custody.

"She will continue to rest at home under the supervision of her doctors while the government stands ready to provide and assist her with medical and humanitarian needs," it said.

Her departure comes four days before a United Nations envoy arrives for talks with Burma's military rulers, who also face pressure from Southeast Asian neighbors to free Suu Kyi before a regional summit next month.

"She will be under house arrest," Dr. Tin Myo Win earlier told reporters at the Asia Royal medical center. *Reuters*

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FLOWER GIRL
A Bangladeshi girl carries water lily plants for sale after collecting them from a swamp on the outskirts of the capital Dhaka on Sept. 26. The water lily is the national flower of Bangladesh and is also a popular food. REUTERS

Australia gives shunned shipful of sheep to Iraq

SYDNEY—Australia has struck a secret deal to offload stranded sheep from the so-called "ship of death" in Iraq in time for the Muslim festival of Ramadan, it was reported Friday.

Amid burgeoning public outcry over the sheep's plight and an unprecedented advertising campaign by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), the government is keen to land the sheep in the Middle East.

The shipload of 57,000 live sheep left Australia almost two months ago for Saudi Arabia but was rejected because an excessive number were suffering from the disease scabby mouth, a claim dismissed by on-board Australian veterinarians.

The sheep have since been stranded on the Dutch-owned Cormo Express in the Persian Gulf in sweltering conditions which have led to around 6,000 deaths, the RSPCA said.

Canberra has so far failed to find a taker for the sheep in negotiations with 10 countries despite offering them for free.

Melbourne's Age newspaper reported Friday the government had struck a secret deal with Iraq for the sheep to be slaughtered for Ramadan.

Citing unnamed sources, the newspaper said Australian livestock exporters, keen to put an end to the public relations disaster, would buy back the surviving sheep and give them away.

It said the deal would cost the national live trade industry up to $6.8 million and could lead to a levy on live exports.

An agriculture ministry spokesperson declined to comment on the report but said the government was still negotiating with 10 countries.

"Our advice from negotiators ... is that any comment by us, any confirmation by us or any naming of countries involved in negotiations is definitely likely to prejudice those negotiations," the spokesperson told AFP.

"So we're not going to do anything to damage the attempts that the Australian government is making to assist the owner of the sheep and get those sheep offloaded as quickly as possible." AFP

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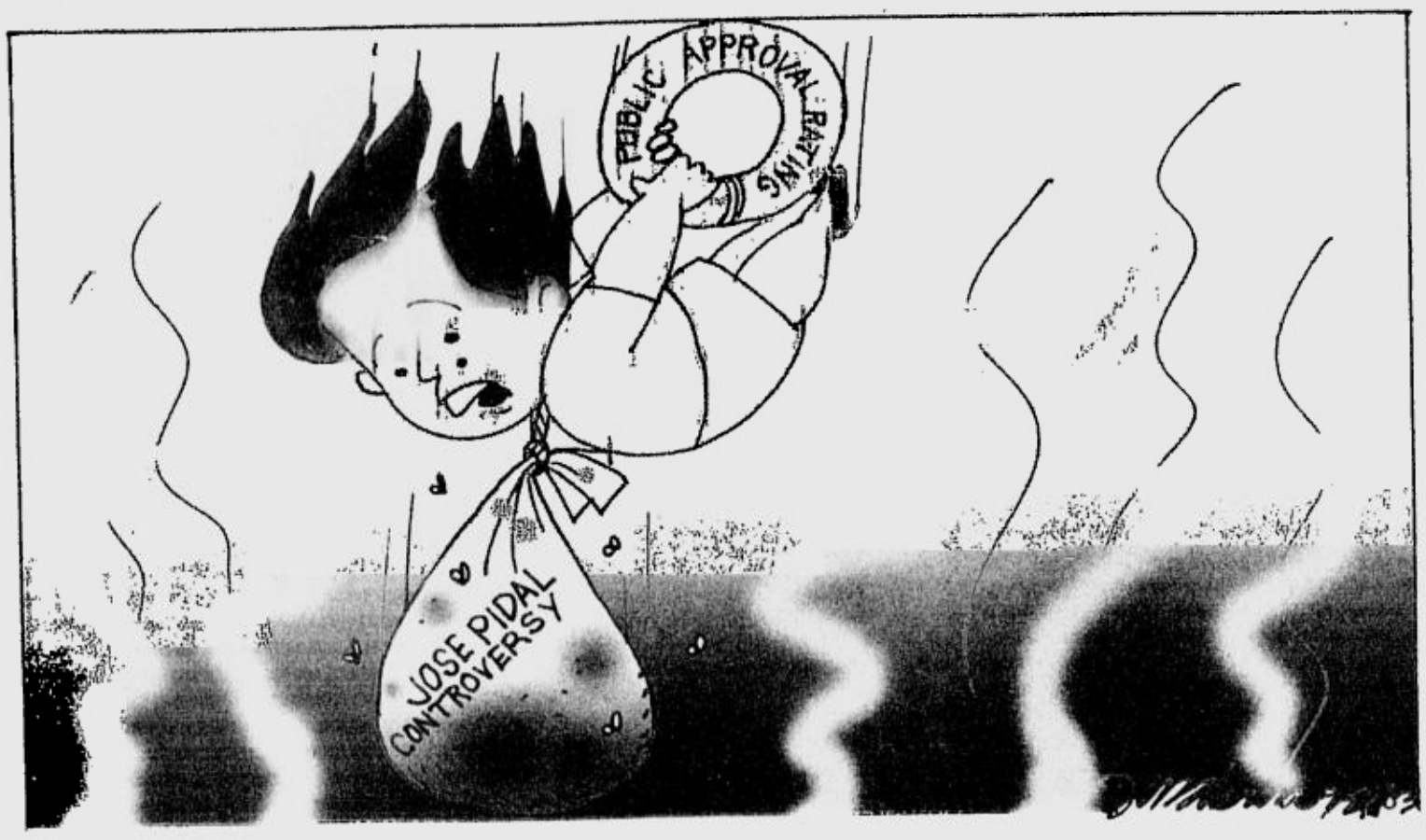


Sex, lies. . .

EDITORIALS

IT IS all right for more conscientious sectors to express concern over the rather inordinate broadcast media spotlight on the ugly Kris Aquino-Joey Marquez squabble. But they have to understand that the fight satisfies all the elements of a cause célèbre.

Both protagonists are prominent people, if by social prominence one means social notoriety. She is the daughter of a beloved former president and a national martyr who has thrown all lineage to the wind by embracing show biz in all its gory glory and consorting with married actors. He is a former basketball player and a comedian with a knack for toilet humor, the two roles seeming to have qualified him for his new role as city mayor. Since the Senate has a former basketball player given to cursing and foul play and a former comedian who made his mark with a litany of dirty jokes as long as toilet paper, it is not surprising that the mayor is now eyeing national office. With their spat capturing the attention of foreign news agencies, they have achieved international prominence. President Macapagal-Arroyo can't match that exposure even if she addresses the UN General Assembly a hundred times.

Both protagonists also satisfy the news value of novelty or oddity, which is vividly described in the newsman's adage, "If a dog bites a man, it's not news; but if a man bites a dog, then that's news." Now, Aquino and Marquez have been an odd couple all along. But they have outdone their odd selves this time. Immaculate and perky, she said she got STD from him. And instead of biting his dog, she tried to grab and crush his genitals.

The tiff satisfies as well the news requirement of relevance. The issue is ripe with lessons of woman battering (Aquino is now the poster girl of battered women, sans garish cosmetics) and how not to hide one's dalliances ("Mariz"! Tsong, you can do better than that!).

And in going public about their fisticuffs, Aquino and Marquez give the lie to the claim of Ignacio Arroyo that there is such a thing as a right to privacy. Thoroughly media animals that they are, they believe that the public has a right to their privacy. Perhaps they're even more generous than that since to them, the public has no choice but to be Peeping Toms. Let the public feast on their STD-stained underwear.

Relevance? How often does a former presidential daughter get to be in a mud-wrestling with a harlequin? How often does the daughter of a national martyr killed by an assassin's bullet get to stare at the butt of the gun by her daddy love?

. . . and television

SO the broadcast media have the perfect right—and the august duty—to cover the event. Since they have tended toward the sleazy (the Sex Bomb girls on Channel 7's daily "Eat Bulaga" and barely covered sexpots in the Clash Dance contest on Channel 2's Sunday "ASAP"), the sudsy and the saccharine (soap operas galore 24/7), and the sporty (game shows, basketball, boxing and wrestling), they have no choice but to inflict the same circus on the public, especially if it's the real thing.

But along the way, the broadcast media have forgotten that there is a distinction between entertainment and news and public affairs. How could they remember the distinction when their news and public affairs shows look more and more like entertainment (watch the show-bizzy poses of the reporters and anchors of "The Correspondents," "Saksi" and "Insider")? How could they remember the distinction when they have allowed show-biz stars to host public affairs shows and their reporters and newsreaders to do commercials?

The two top networks particularly have allowed their rivalry to get the better of them so that they have abandoned objectivity and fairness. Channel 2 covered only the side of Aquino, its talent, and Channel 7 covered only the side of Marquez, its talent. Korina Sanchez, the newsreader of "TV Patrol," thought she was in "Morning Girls" when she interviewed Aquino and called her "the winner."

Come to think of it, Aquino—and Marquez—are indeed the winners of the fracas. In going to town with their fight, they have somehow boosted their public renown (or notoriety) and enhanced their political chances: he for the Senate or House next year, she for the Senate in 2007. As Aquino religiously says in her Sunday gossip show about actors and actresses that have been maligned by vicious talk: "Good or bad, it's still publicity, *'di ba*?"

So Aquino should stop whining that she has "lost everything." She and Marquez are set for a grand slam.

Who is the commander in chief?

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will deny it, but it is obvious that she is afraid of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. That is conduct unbecoming their commander in chief and hardly in character with her being "*mataray*." There is no doubt that she is not commanding but in fact, sad to say, *courting* them.

She is no Churchill whose pugnacity and courage inspired his countrymen to resist the Nazi blitzkrieg and win the Battle of Britain. She is more of the wavering Neville Chamberlain who yielded to the Munich Pact in exchange for what he naively called "peace in our time."

President Macapagal's deference to the military establishment is unequaled compared to the also fawning attitude of past administrations.

President Aquino may be forgiven her partiality toward the AFP because of their help in installing her in Malacañang after the ouster of Marcos by the people power of Edsa I. This move was strengthened by a belatedly penitent military.

President Ramos, who led Edsa I with Juan Ponce Enrile, succeeded in persuading the AFP to side with them and end the despotism. He was later elected to the highest office with the active support of his comrades in arms, whom he rewarded with appointments to civilian positions.

President Estrada did not need the AFP because he had the *masa* to elect him. Nevertheless, the politician in him recognized the importance of the generals to maintain him in office until his flagrant excesses eventually alienated them.

President Macapagal has a more urgent reason—her political survival. La Gloria, for all her supposed spunk, is afraid that the Armed Forces of the Philippines may someday turn against her and eject her from the office she now occupies by mere constitutional succession.

To avoid this, she is exerting every effort to curry favor with the military. Like Ramos, she is appointing retired generals to offices better filled by civilians equally eligible as, if not more so than, the unemployed soldiers.

There are many of her military appointees who are not familiar with civilian positions but are there just the same simply to keep them happy. Enforced retirement may leave them with nothing to do but feed their discontent with thoughts of rebellion.

How many military men now hold civilian positions? The list is long and worrisome to those who believe in the constitutional principle that "civilian authority shall at all times be supreme over the military."

A singular example will suffice: retired Gen. Adelberto Yap, head of the Air Transportation Office, one of the most ineptly-run agencies in the government. A qualified civilian appointee can vastly improve its performance for the benefit of the public and not of favored airlines.

Only recently, President Macapagal appeared before an assemblage of soldiers to quell their dissatisfaction over their claimed neglect by Malacañang. The commander in chief soothed them with airy assurances that she would improve their lot and sweeten it with benefits. She also promised to look into their complaints of financial irregularities in the AFP and the alleged corruption of the generals.

Why this special attention to the AFP when there is similar restiveness among other government functionaries? How about the ignored protests of the teachers and the rampant corruption in their department and other Cabinet offices?

Quezon and Osmeña did not fret about the loyalty of the Armed Forces during their watch because we were still a colony of the United States. Roxas, Quirino, Magsaysay, Garcia and Macapagal were not threatened by the AFP and kept them under control. It was Marcos who made the military a co-principal in the imposition and maintenance of his dictatorship.

President Macapagal should show that she is the commander in chief of all our armed forces and not merely their flatterer and coddler. Command is not demonstrated by wheedling or accommodation or distribution of favors to retired generals.

She ran true to form, however, by appointing another retired general to the position vacated by Gen. Angelo Reyes as defense secretary. One of the few correct acts of President Estrada was the appointment of former Sen. Orlando Mercado, a civilian, to that office. There is no evidence that he discharged his duties there less efficiently than his military predecessors.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Britain showed that she had firm command of her country's armed forces in the war with Argentina over the Falkland Islands. There was never any doubt as to who was commanding whom. Like Indira Gandhi of India and Golda Meir of Israel, the Iron Lady proved that a woman could lead.

The military had its glory days during the martial law regime, when sergeants swaggered like colonels and colonels strutted like generals. That shameful period is over and President Macapagal should make it so. She should enforce the constitutional fiat that she, and no one else, is the commander in chief of all the armed forces. It is the generals who should salute her, not the other way 'round.

Poverty indicators

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

IF poverty issues in the Philippines got one-tenth, or even just one-hundredth, of the attention that has been lavished by the media, the public and political leaders on the Pidal brouhaha or the Kris/Joey drama, the country would probably be able to achieve its Millennium Development Goals on poverty—halving the 1990 income poverty incidence by 2015—much ahead of schedule. But the way things have been going, one would almost think that poverty alleviation is close to the bottom of everybody's priority scale.

Take the Annual Poverty Indicators Survey (APIS) undertaken by the National Statistics Office (NSO) since 1998. It is a nationwide survey (with results down to the provincial level) designed to provide data that can be used to assess the progress of the war against poverty. Previous to APIS, poverty was officially measured only once every three years in conjunction with the triennial Family Income and Expenditures Survey (FIES).

A pretty important undertaking, one would surmise, particularly since every politician and wannabe professes that waging a successful war against poverty is his main goal in life. So what happens? Well, despite the "Annual" in its title, the survey was not undertaken in 2001, due to budgetary constraints. Then, when some preliminary results of the 2002 APIS were released in early January—yes, all of eight months ago—the media did not pick it up. Everyone was too busy analyzing whether the President meant what she said about not being a candidate in the next elections.

Worse, even the government agencies concerned with poverty monitoring and program assessment seemed to have forgotten that the figures were available for analysis, because when President Macapagal-Arroyo gave her State of the Nation Address in July, no mention was made of the NSO findings. The poverty statistics she used were from the Social Weather Stations surveys, which were on self-rated poverty.

As it is, the final results are already available at the NSO, although they have yet to be officially published—again, for lack of funds. We should give the data the attention they deserve, particularly since they provide us with hard information on how the war on poverty has been faring as well as an empirical basis for the assessment of the administration's poverty programs.

Recall that the 2000 FIES gave us the bad news that the war on poverty had suffered a setback: poverty incidence—the percentage of Filipino families who did not have the income necessary to purchase basic food (2,000 calories/day) and non-food requirements—had increased since 1997.

The 2002 APIS gives us better news. While there have been both gains and setbacks, there is little doubt that on the whole, Filipino families have improved the quality of their lives compared to 1999. Arguably the bottom 40 percent of Filipino families have also fared better on the whole in 2002 compared to three years before.

Let's look at the indicators for the bottom 40 percent of the families more closely. On the positive side, the data show the following:

- Some 84.9 percent of these households had heads who were gainfully employed, compared to 57.6 percent in 1999.
- A smaller percentage of families with children 5-17 years old found it necessary to use them as child labor (18.7 percent in 2002 vs. 20.0 in 1999).
- A larger percentage of families with children 6-12 years old had them in elementary school (91.1 percent vs. 90 percent). The same trend was found for families with children 13-16 years old—a larger percentage had them studying in high school (87.1 percent vs. 57.6 percent).
- Some 54.8 percent of the bottom families had houses with roof made of strong materials, an increase from 51.6 percent in 1999
- The percentage of families with access to electricity increased from 47.4 percent to 55.9 percent.
- So did the percentage of families who owned TV sets (24.2 percent to 31.3 percent), refrigerators (8.5 percent to 10 percent), ranges or stoves (20.3 percent to 22.4 percent), washing machines (3.0 percent to 3.7 percent) and cars (2.7 percent to 3.9 percent). Interestingly, a larger percentage of families in the bottom 40 percent own cars rather than cell phones (3.1 percent).
- And finally, the percentage of families with a member involved in at least one legitimate people's organization increased from 17.2 percent to 25 percent. This is an indicator of an empowerment process.

On the other hand, there were setbacks, too:

- The percentage of families who had access to safe drinking water went down from 71.5 percent to 70.2 percent, although in absolute terms, the number increased by 254,000 (in Metro Manila, the decrease was larger: from 77.1 percent in 1999 to 68.6 percent in 2002).
- The percentage of families with access to sanitary toilets also decreased, from 73.9 percent to 73.1 percent.
- So did the percentage of families with houses whose outer walls were made of strong materials (51.1 percent to 40.9 percent), and those who owned houses and lots (69 percent to 63.1 percent).
- To complete the picture, fewer families owned radio and stereo equipment (70.7 percent to 64.4 percent) between 1999 and 2002.

Aside from the foregoing welfare indicators, the 2002 APIS also provides clues with respect to the effectiveness of certain important government programs. For example, we find that the percentage of poor families who got their homes through a government program decreased from 2.9 percent to 1.8 percent, while the percentage acquiring lands through CARP increased from 25.8 percent to 26.4 percent.

Let the President draw her own conclusions. We can draw our own.

Shifting to high gear

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE POLITICAL season shifts to high gear with the administration party and the opposition firming up plans for the 2004 elections. The Lakas national directorate will meet on Oct. 7 and first on its agenda is choosing its standard bearer. The LDP hopes to finalize the united opposition's lineup within the next 10 days.

The plan to draft President Macapagal-Arroyo as Lakas' official candidate way ahead of President Bush's visit on Oct. 18 may be in for some reassessment, as the latest Pulse Asia survey shows her hitting an all-time low of 41 percent in public approval and trust. It seems that the Jose Pidal exposé of Sen. Panfilo Lacson has affected her a lot, although some GMA partisans argue that with the elections eight months away, she can still to recover. But this has to be assessed by party leaders.

* * *

However, some surveys are reportedly showing that Lacson himself has been damaged badly too, largely because he has failed to substantiate his accusations and is himself perceived as heavy with political dirt. The Supreme Court's final ruling on the Kuratong Baleleng case is expected any day now, meaning RTC Judge Julie Yada could send Lacson to jail. All these are weighing on the opposition, especially since an SWS survey said that 24 percent of the voters would not vote for Lacson no matter what, and their number could still get bigger.

If Lacson is himself being destroyed, Eduardo Cojuangco's stock ought to be rising, but he remains stuck in the bottom, unable to connect to people.

And where is Raul Roco? He's still there among the leaders, but he has not moved. And no, Sen. Noli de Castro is not spoken of much by the Lakas people as an option, although he remains very much in some people's mind.

* * *

Earlier this month, my husband and I joined the family and legion of friends and admirers of former Olongapo City Mayor and Assemblywoman Amelia Juico-Gordon at the Philippine International Convention Center for a double-barreled celebration. She turned 84 years old and had won the prestigious Pearl S. Buck International (PSBI) Woman of the Year Award for 2002 in the US last June. Gordon, who has legally adopted 54 children sired by American servicemen and has cared for many thousands more over the years, was cited by PSBI chair Susan Berg as embodying the "legacy" of legendary author and Nobel and Pulitzer prize winner Pearl Buck. She was cited for "having effectively served as foster parent to thousands of the neediest young boys and girls in her community" and devoting a large portion of her life to public service. She bested nominees that included both Laura and Barbara Bush, President Bush's wife and mother; Dana Cheney, wife of Vice President Dick Cheney; and the UN's Mary Robinson, who was also cited for her work for Amerasian children. Only one other Filipina has won the 50-year-old award, and that is former President Cory Aquino.

* * *

Still bearing traces of her old beauty, Amelia Gordon relished the tribute "to the best mom in the world" paid by her six children: Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, Rep. James "Bong" Gordon Jr., Barbara G. de los Reyes, Veronica G. Lorenzana, Cecile G. Mullen and Imelda G. Deza, and her 26 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and 54 adopted children. Widowed at a very young age when Olongapo's first city mayor, James Gordon, was assassinated in 1967 by the corrupt elements he had been battling, Amelia succeeded him as mayor. She quickly plunged into the unique brand of public and humanitarian service she was to become known for in the next decades.

As Dick Gordon told it, the Gordon children grew up sharing their home with all kinds of people. He recalled how he would regularly come home to Olongapo from the Ateneo where he was studying to find two or three kids, whom his mother had just taken in, sleeping in his room. It's easy to understand how that kind of exposure stirred in Dick the spirit of volunteerism he successfully marshaled to keep Subic intact, after the area was devastated by Pinatubo. His wife, Olongapo Mayor Kate Gordon, absorbed that spirit by osmosis, and I see it too in Amelia's daughter, Barbara, who runs a successful chain of fine dining restaurants, including one in Intramuros that is named after her, and a catering service in Manila. Bai has trained countless poor people in the food business. She and her husband, Antonio de los Reyes, are active in low-cost housing for the poor, in cooperation with the Catholic bishops. Amelia's spirit truly lives on in her offsprings.

* * *

Paging the deans of universities and colleges in Metro Manila. You may wish to send your students to a symposium this Tuesday, Sept. 30, where the young people can imbibe a fresh moral perspective to lift their spirits. The Carmelites of Gilmore St., New Manila, QC, will present a symposium on the relevance of the spirituality of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, who's called the Saint of the Third Millennium, to the youth of the modern world. To be held at the St. Therese Hall of the Gilmore monastery from 9 to 11:30 am., it will also coincide with the launch of the Carmelites' book, "Filipino Spiritual Culture, Social Transformation & Globalization," edited by former UP and now Kalayaan College president Jose V. Abueva. The book is a compilation of 13 speeches delivered by distinguished lay and religious leaders, including former President Cory Aquino and Cardinals Arinze and Sin, during the year-long diamond jubilee celebration of the Gilmore Monastery from November 2000 to 2001.

Not just 'away ng mag-asawa'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

MORE lessons from the Kris-Joey imbroglio, and then I will keep my peace. Promise... Unless someone provokes me.

First, this is not just "*away ng mag-asawa*," or even a tiff between a woman and her boyfriend. The account that Kris so dramatically shared with the republic, if true and accurate, is a case of domestic violence. Just because Kris and Joey are not married does not make the violence acceptable, tolerable or legal. It is a crime to inflict physical injuries on another, be it as a result of a drunken brawl or of a marital conflict. But women's groups have long said that domestic violence should be declared a unique and special crime, occurring as it does within the setting of the home, where one should feel safest, and in the context of a supposedly loving relationship. Violence between partners—people sharing an intimate relationship and living in a single dwelling—violates a basic trust, precisely because the intimate relationship gives the partners extraordinary power over and vulnerability to each other. And because the vast majority of victims of domestic violence are women, and the vast majority of abusers are men, we know that the balance of power in such relationships lies solidly on the man's side.

Domestic violence is not a private issue. We should not leave the partners to settle the matter by themselves. If we do that, in all probability, the weaker partner, the one with less physical, financial or emotional power, will end up dead, hospitalized or serving out a life sentence in the prison she calls home.

Before women's organizations raised a stink about it, police used to ignore frantic phone calls from the women or their neighbors precisely because they believed it was "just" *away ng mag-asawa*, a private matter. But we know that such "private" matters have escalated into a public social issue, reinforcing the notion that women enjoy no rights at home, and creating a violent society in the process.

* * *

SHOULD we stop commenting on the sordid details of the scandal in deference to the feelings of the innocent parties involved, mainly Joey and Kris's children and maybe even their families?

Utang na loob! When they both decided to enter into the relationship, knowing full well each other's commitments, responsibilities and even checkered histories, they presumably gave little thought to the collateral damage, as their very public flaunting of the affair proved. But now that their "feast" has crumbled, and they are the ones that the media are feasting on, they suddenly remember that they have young children and loving families. Gimme a break.

One thing I realized during the "Debate" broadcast is that the double standard is alive and well in the Philippines. From the comments of the panelists and audience, it seems that while Filipinos believe it's only "natural" for a married man to engage in extra-marital affairs or discard one's wife for a new involvement, the woman who takes up with a married man has only herself to blame and should be condemned for "ruining" a marriage and a family.

* * *

LAWYER Carolina Ruiz-Austria of WomenLead, commenting on the affair, offers this perspective:

"Kris has been judged often harshly in the past not just because of her poor taste in men, but because she lives and yes, she loves freely. In a society where 'good women' are not supposed to have pre-marital sex or even have sex if it's not for procreation... Kris' unabashed declarations of her loves and intimate details of her life, clash with what our society expects of women.

"This is also the reason why many people still doubt her sincerity about this issue. Yes, Kris is rich and powerful but she is also a woman who was after all in love with her abuser.

"Is it so hard to imagine how young women... grow up believing that they can fall in love with a rogue and turn him into a prince, loyal only to her?

"Besides, what acts of promiscuity committed by Joey Marquez have ever raised eyebrows, let alone were ever met with disapproval in Philippine society?

"Abuse of women in intimate relationships is not recognized as a crime. (The bill has been stalled in an erstwhile Pidal-crazy Senate.) Remember that marital infidelity is not treated equally in penal law. Only women commit adultery and husbands can get away with most anything short of shacking up with his mistress (concubinage). But even that is just black-letter law, not real life because the truth is, many men get away with so much more. Divorce is not even available.

"In a society where the conservative religious forces treat women's reproductive health like a dirty word, how do we ever expect our young women to grow up empowered enough to protect themselves from STDs? Prevent unwanted pregnancy?"

* * *

AND while we're on the matter of sexually transmitted diseases, we Pinoys seem to think we should invest even this with moral undertones. How could Kris have admitted on TV that she had come down with a sexually transmitted disease? some people ask. Doesn't she know that this is an extremely shameful matter and by admitting it, she might as well have confessed to being a woman of loose morals?

Well, Kris has not pretended to be a virgin, but having an STD doesn't mean she's turned into a whore, either. As I said yesterday, too many "good" women, faithful women, have found to their horror that their "loving" husbands had come home and given them the gift of a sexually transmitted disease. It's our moralistic, judgmental and punitive attitudes that condemn these women to lives of shame and denial.

What our ancestors knew

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

EVERYONE tells you that reading is knowledge. But it can also be frustrating. I am informed that it was known (once upon a time, though obviously not today) that on the way to Pagsanjan, between Mabitac and Paete, through the beautiful but difficult to navigate Bumbungan River, was an arroyo of blackish water that emitted the penetrating and nauseous odor of hydrogen sulfate and which the people around called "*mabahong tubig*." From this stinking water was extracted lead sulphur. In Pagsanjan itself, the springs of thermal waters on the banks of the Bumbungan River came down from the mountain through a subterranean passage and exploded to the surface in the form of a stream some four feet in diameter. The water was tepid, transparent and very good for convalescents from skin diseases and even those with weak constitutions.

To treat certain illnesses, our ancestors utilized iron sulfate or vitriol as well as salt crystals. There was manganese in Negros, calcified alum in the town of Dauin, and with it the Montescos cured quinsy (the dictionary tells me is a severe inflammation of the throat), using bamboo tubes to pour it into the throat. From travelers, the authorities were aware of pumice stones, of rock crystal and stalactites, but because of the lack of good roads exact knowledge was not possible.

The best known of the thermal sulfuric waters were those in Los Baños beside the banks of Laguna de Bai. The ferruginous waters of Pagsanjan were just as well known, as well as those of Antipolo to where the sick made a yearly pilgrimage to the Virgin.

The vista offered by the town of Antipolo from the top of the mountain was believed to be the most beautiful. To the fiesta of Antipolo, the Chinese would go bringing their banquets. Some devotees made the pilgrimage on foot and unshod, but the most common route was through the Pasig, partly in bancas and partly in hammocks carried by two men.

Not less celebrated were the waters of Mariquina which were said to also have ferruginous qualities. These were crystalline, odorless and tasteless and were much praised.

In the huge flatlands between Mariquina and the Pasig, a type of rice called Macan grew, while on the sides of the mountains the Mangara whose grain was thicker and harder was planted.

Two harvests were produced a year in most provinces, if they didn't plant corn after the rice or sugar cane. Rice offered great riches for the country not only because of the consumption of the inhabitants but from commerce as well since it was exported to China.

Sugar was planted in the months of March and April so that the cane grew tall enough when the rains came. There were two types: the red and the green, thicker than that of Java and with nodes that were not as far apart as that from the Sandwich Islands. The green type was cultivated in the hacienda of Jala-Jala beside Laguna de Bai, the property of M. de la Gironiere who sold it later to M. Vidie. The best sugar was from Pampanga, Bulacan and Laguna. Sugar of inferior quality came from Cebu and Iloilo.

Since prefab materials were not available then, our ancestors were more aware of the different types of lumber and their uses. Unfortunately, not many of us recognize these names.

The lumber of the *alamag* tree was considered hard. The flowers of the *alanguilan* had the strongest perfume. The cortex of the shrub *alasis* was good at relieving tooth aches. Shampoo was produced not only from coconut bark but from the fruit of the *calamondi* or *aldonises*. The lumber from the *alibolo* tree was hard enough to serve as bridge support. *Amoguis* lumber was used for floor boards though it was susceptible to termites.

The *alicbacgon* plant was good for eye problems. The tamarind was considered medicinal as well as the *caña fistola* and the *tagang tangan*.

We did have cotton that was considered superior at the time to those of Bombay. There were two types: one came from a tree and the other from a bush, its color white or ecru. The harvest was abundant but everything was consumed locally. The principal producers were Batangas and Ilocos. The cotton was woven with silk or *piña* and sometimes with abaca. Special mention is made of shirts made from a fabric called *sinmay de sinulit*.

In Cavite alone, there were 23 species of distinct wood; in Ilocos Norte, 116; in Bataan, 60; in Laguna, 30; in Tayabas, 45; in Nueva Ecija, 28; in Negros, 65; in Bulacan, 30; in Leyte, 45; in Capiz, 36; in Antique, 23; in Camarines, 54; in Ilocos Sur, 35; and in Zamboanga, 26. It was not known how many species there were in other parts of Mindanao. (Did we ever find out?)

In the mountains of Nueva Ecija was found an animal that the Aetas called *parret*. It had the color of cinnamon, dirty white legs, a bare snout, small and dark, with a thick and heavy moustache, four toes on its feet with strong nails and another rudimentary toe. It was a foot long from the tip of his tail to his coccyx. It resembled a rat or a type of rabbit. It was not abundant but was easily domesticated and ate roots. (This must either be one of those extinct fauna of ours or may still be in existence but known by another name.)

(*From "Cronica General de España'," 1871.*)

Unafraid

YOUNG BLOOD

Gabriel Castellano Baluyut

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

MY parents were divorced when I was 4 years old, and I lived with my mom from then on. During my childhood in Los Angeles, I visited my dad in San Francisco during the summers. But the annual visits stopped when my mother and I moved to Manila where I enrolled for high school. Early in my childhood, my parents had decided that I would go to Ateneo for my secondary education, just like my father and his father before him. I saw my dad only twice in three years, during his short visits to Manila where he mounted his photography exhibits.

Last April, my father was diagnosed with stage 4 liver cancer—a terminal case. He was given only a few months to live. Three months of chemotherapy proved ineffective.

My relatives planned a family reunion in the United States to coincide with my half-brother's (my dad's eldest son by his first wife) wedding, and my father's ordination as a Zen priest. He had started studying Zen philosophy right after he and my mom separated. All the events just seemed to fall into place.

I missed two weeks of school to be with my dad for what might be the last time. But to me, it was a fair trade-off.

During the time I was with him, my father's condition rapidly deteriorated. I took on the role of caregiver, since my uncle who was staying with him knew little about caring for the sick. I had learned a few things about medicine from my stepfather who is a doctor.

All my relatives commended me for taking care of my dad. My father's doctor said he was touched by my dedication. If only they knew how much it hurt me to do what I had to do; I could not stand seeing my dad in pain.

A few days before I was scheduled to return to Manila, my father was rushed to the hospital after coughing up blood. We all cried when the doctor told us he only had weeks, possibly even days to live. He said there was nothing Western medicine could do to help him: the cancer was too far advanced to be controlled. There was nothing left to do but try to control the pain and make my dad comfortable.

Every minute I spent with my dad became more and more valuable. But though I was feeling sad, my spirit was always lifted whenever I was with him. I could see he was not scared of dying. He seemed to be at peace with himself and ready to face the inevitable.

This was something our relatives found hard to accept. They would cry every time death was mentioned.

Me? I was smiling secretly and I was proud of the courage my father was showing. He was dying, but he could still crack a joke, like he always did.

The night before I was to leave, I talked to my father alone. He asked me how I felt about their divorce and separation. He was worried that I might blame him for everything.

The truth was, I hardly felt bad about what happened between them. And it felt great to relieve him of his emotional burden.

He told me he loved me very much, and that it hurt him a lot to be separated from me.

I was crying by then. Only then did I realize how much I really loved him. He wasn't the best father a kid could have, but he sure loved me a lot.

On my flight back home, I tried to remember everything that had happened in our family. I reflected on our past and the present. And I couldn't help but cry.

Until this visit, my first career choice was becoming a forensic detective (I had been watching too much "CSI," I guess). But as I was flying over the ocean, I decided that I wanted to care for people. I wanted to become a doctor.

Some people I know have said that seeing my father in his condition must have been a traumatic experience that was bound to leave some deep emotional scars.

They are wrong. That experience has only made me a stronger person. I have developed a new respect for life, and a new respect for the gifts God has given me.

The more I thought about the days we spent together, the more I felt that I could see inside myself. I realized that among the gifts God has given me, life is the best of all.

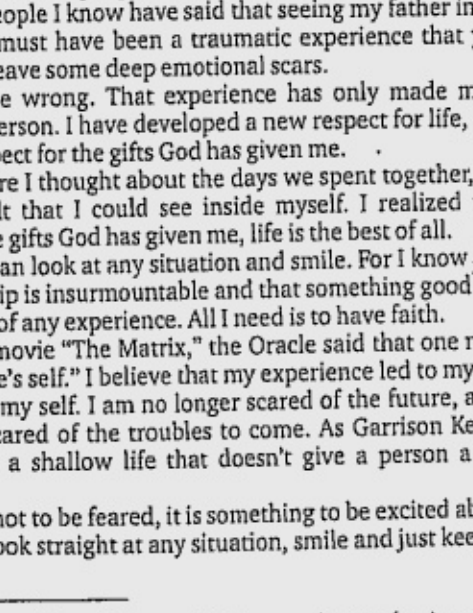
Now I can look at any situation and smile. For I know that no hardship is insurmountable and that something good will come out of any experience. All I need is to have faith.

In the movie "The Matrix," the Oracle said that one must "know one's self." I believe that my experience led to my discovery of my self. I am no longer scared of the future, and I am not scared of the troubles to come. As Garrison Keillor said, "It's a shallow life that doesn't give a person a few scars."

Life is not to be feared, it is something to be excited about. You can look straight at any situation, smile and just keep on going.

Gabriel Castellano Baluyut, 16, is a senior at the Ateneo de Manila High School.

IN THE NEWS



Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales

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Media frenzy over Joey-Kris affair

THE MAJOR treatment given by the media to the latest episode of the Kris Aquino-Joey Marquez love affair shows why our country is in its sorry state.

We have become show biz-crazed.

While both are public figures, their story rightfully belongs inside the Lifestyle or Entertainment section (or the Metro section, as it was a police matter), not in the front page and headlines of evening news.

And while the treatment of the tabloids was understandable, the way my two favorite dailies handled the story was lamentable.

But the reason is obvious. Show biz sells.

That's why I won't be surprised if there'll be a bidding war between the two major networks (after all, Kris is an ABS-CBN talent and Joey is GMA-7's) as to which will be the "official network" when the case is filed in court. Think of the rating and advertisements this reality show could generate.

No wonder the Senate (specially the "honorable" oppositionists) is doing more entertainment than actual legislation. These guys know that come election time, the clown will always have a built-in advantage over a serious candidate.

God help the Philippines!

—ED DAMES,
26/F The World Center,
Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

Too many urinals and waiting sheds

WHAT'S with the Metro Manila Development Authority's project of putting up too many urinals and waiting sheds? Some of these urinals are just about a hundred meters or less apart in Sucat Avenue and West Service Road in Parañaque City. Some rose-colored waiting sheds on the other hand are just about three meters away from existing ones built by politicians.

While male urinals may be necessary where drivers converge such as jeepney terminals, too many of them is a glaring waste, an unconscionable use of taxes. And what do numerous waiting sheds encourage? Sidewalk vending and stops by public transports. To think that these are what the MMDA is supposedly trying to eliminate.

Government officials may have to be reminded that wasteful projects make people seethe with disgust. It is acts like these that make people want leadership change sooner than later by any means.

Filipino taxpayers only long for basic services like well-paved roads, garbage-free surroundings, sidewalks with trees, moving traffic and crime-free cities so that we can all be productive anytime without fear for life and limb.

The MMDA would have done better to discipline Filipino men to use rest rooms that abound anyway because gasoline stations, fast-food chains, restaurants and malls have sprouted everywhere.

—LORIE TOLEDO,
107 Santan St., UPS 4,
Parañaque City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Victory for small nations

THE RECENT failure of the World Trade Organization meeting in Cancun, Mexico is a victory of the small nations over the rich countries of the world.

I am very happy and glad that the Philippine delegation led by Trade Secretary Mar Roxas II has taken the position that "no deal is better than a bad deal," that poor developing nations manifested as early as February this year at the Asian Conference in Kuala Lumpur.

The lopsided agreements in the WTO must be reviewed to eliminate the gaping disparity in favor of rich nations.

The consumers in developing nations should not be the milking cow of rich nations, tied down to a role to merely support the rich countries.

We can all become a voice to reckon with if developing countries bind together and demand that we should be heard as one and not just mere subservient entities that are ignored by rich nations.

With no meaningful and significant participation in globalized trade scenarios, poor developing nations should walk out of world trade bodies and just forge trade agreements among themselves, as this will be the most effective means of clamping down on free-market access for rich developing nations that they have usually had through the WTO agreements.

—VIC DEL FIERRO JR.,
president,
Coalition for Consumer Protection & Welfare Inc.,
vdelfierro@hotmail.com

Only Saudi clearances delaying OFW's return

I AM writing in reaction to a news story published on the front page of your Sept. 8 issue titled "Release of 3 OFWs pressed." In the story, Migrante International's Maita Santiago accused the Philippine Embassy officials in Riyadh of delaying the repatriation of three OFWs in order to provide President Macapagal-Arroyo a "political photo opportunity" with them when she visits Saudi Arabia. Further, Santiago accused the President of "exploiting and prolonging the families' pain just to further her own political agenda."

I would like to assure you, the families of Joselito Alejo, Ramiro Esmero and Romeo Cordova, that the Philippine Embassy in Riyadh, under the instruction of President Macapagal herself, has done its best in looking after the welfare of the three Filipinos. In fact, Alejo and Esmero have already returned to the country and were reunited with their families on Sept. 16.

I personally met with the beleaguered OFWs during my visit to Saudi Arabia last June. After being set free last January, they have been "adopted" by the Philippine Embassy. The authorities required them to stay there until the necessary clearances are issued for their repatriation. With no source of income, they survived out of donations from embassy officials and fellow Filipinos.

In his official update on the status of the three OFWs dated Sept. 10, Ambassador Bahnarim Guinomla said the reason why our compatriots' return took some time was because they were still awaiting the required exit clearances. Exit clearances of OFWs are secured by the embassy from the police and immigration authorities as well as from their respective employers.

We are optimistic that the clearances for Cordova will also be completed within the next few days. Along with his family, we are eager to see him come home.

—AMBASSADOR AMABLE R. AGUILUZ V,
special envoy to the Gulf Cooperation Council,
Office of the President,
Malacañang, Manila

Need for sobriety and circumspection

THE IMPEACHMENT process involving the Chief Justice and seven other members of the Supreme Court has started. For all of us, who are not protagonists in this controversy, perhaps we should do well to observe utmost sobriety and circumspection. It makes good sense to refrain from prejudging the case, or giving premature, or worse, reckless or malicious comments.

Let's bear in mind the justices belong to the judiciary, the institution which is the bedrock of democracy—which provides also legal and social moorings upon which rests the stability and harmony of our society.

Let us be mindful of the constitutional presumption of innocence, unless convicted beyond reasonable doubt. Under the rule of law, the justices should thus continue to be entitled to our due respect and good faith accorded to them as members of the highest court of the land.

For one, there is already so much turmoil and trouble now in our land. We can almost hear the firebells ringing in the night. Put another way, our ship of state appears to be floundering, buffeted by the stormy winds of social strife and conflict. If this ship of ours sinks, we will all go down with it. Let's think it over.

—EDMUNDO H. ESCALANTE,
president, Integrated Bar of the Philippines, Sorsogon Chapter,
Gubat, Sorsogon

No call for President's resignation from Copa

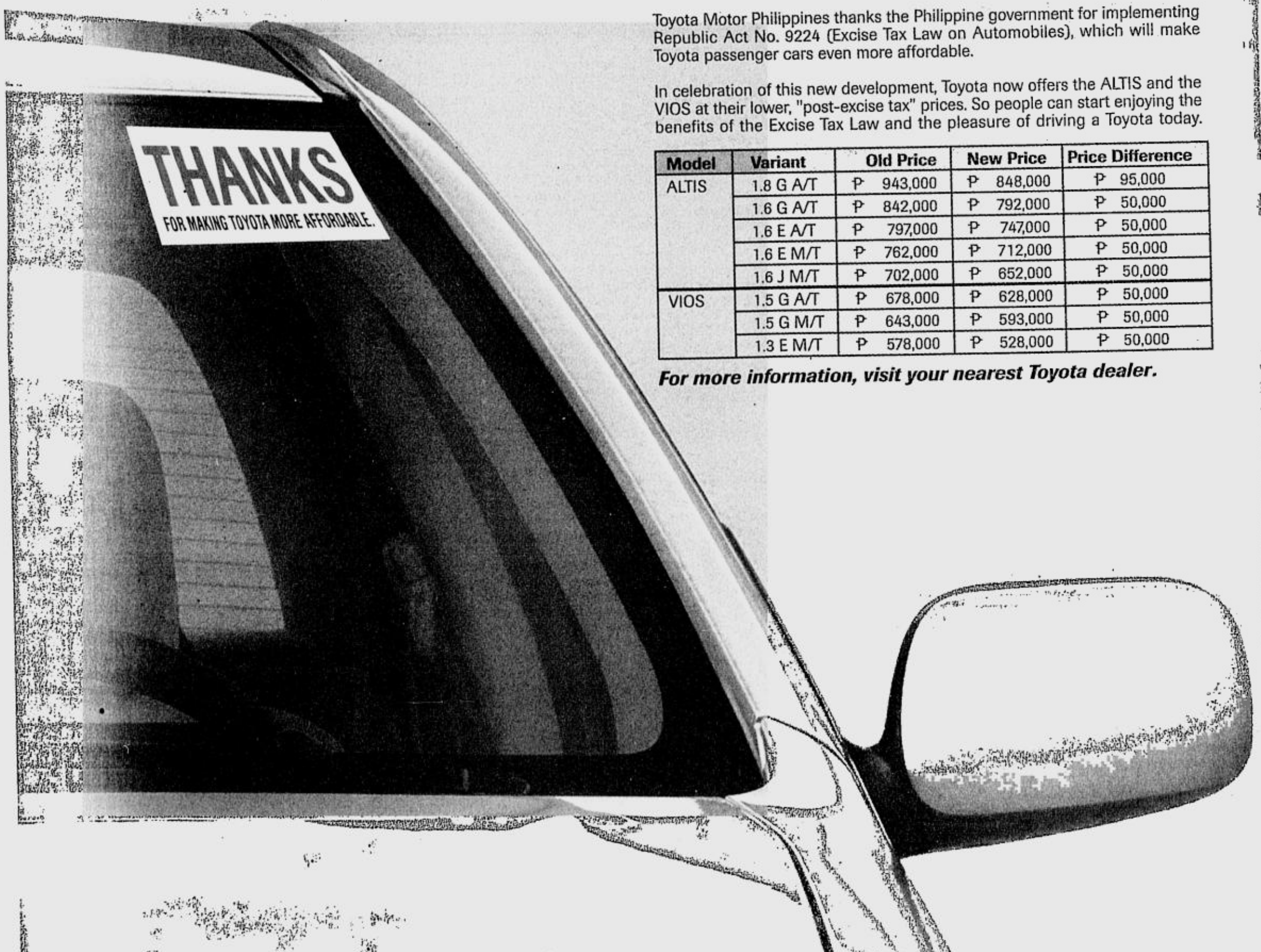
WE are reacting to the INQUIRER article which said that "Agfo president, retired Brig. Gen. Ernesto Gidaya, rejected the call of Council for Philippine Affairs' Pastor 'Boy' Saycon and William Esposo for the President's resignation."

Please be informed that neither I nor Saycon made a call for the President to resign. When the national situation called for that during the time of former President Joseph Estrada, we did make such a call as did many others. If and when the time comes that such is also required by national interest during the present dispensation—rest assured that we will not hesitate to make such a call and it will not matter if that meets Gidaya's liking or not.

Furthermore, being a general—whether retired or active—does not give anyone the right to misrepresent others. The general can feel free to cozy up to anyone—that is his right. But kindly let it not be at our expense.

A true gentleman and an officer, albeit misinformed, will forthwith apologize.

—WILLIAM M. ESPOSO,
chair, Council on Philippine Affairs (Copa)



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	1.6 E M/T	₱ 762,000	₱ 712,000	₱ 50,000
	1.6 J M/T	₱ 702,000	₱ 652,000	₱ 50,000
VIOS	1.5 G A/T	₱ 678,000	₱ 628,000	₱ 50,000
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TOYOTA

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

GMA supporters ask: Where's the money?

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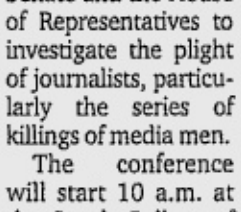

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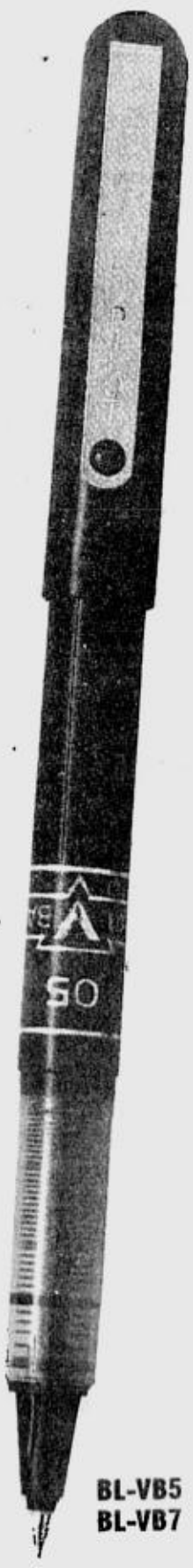

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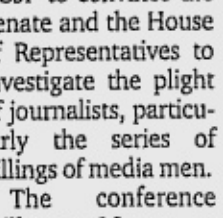

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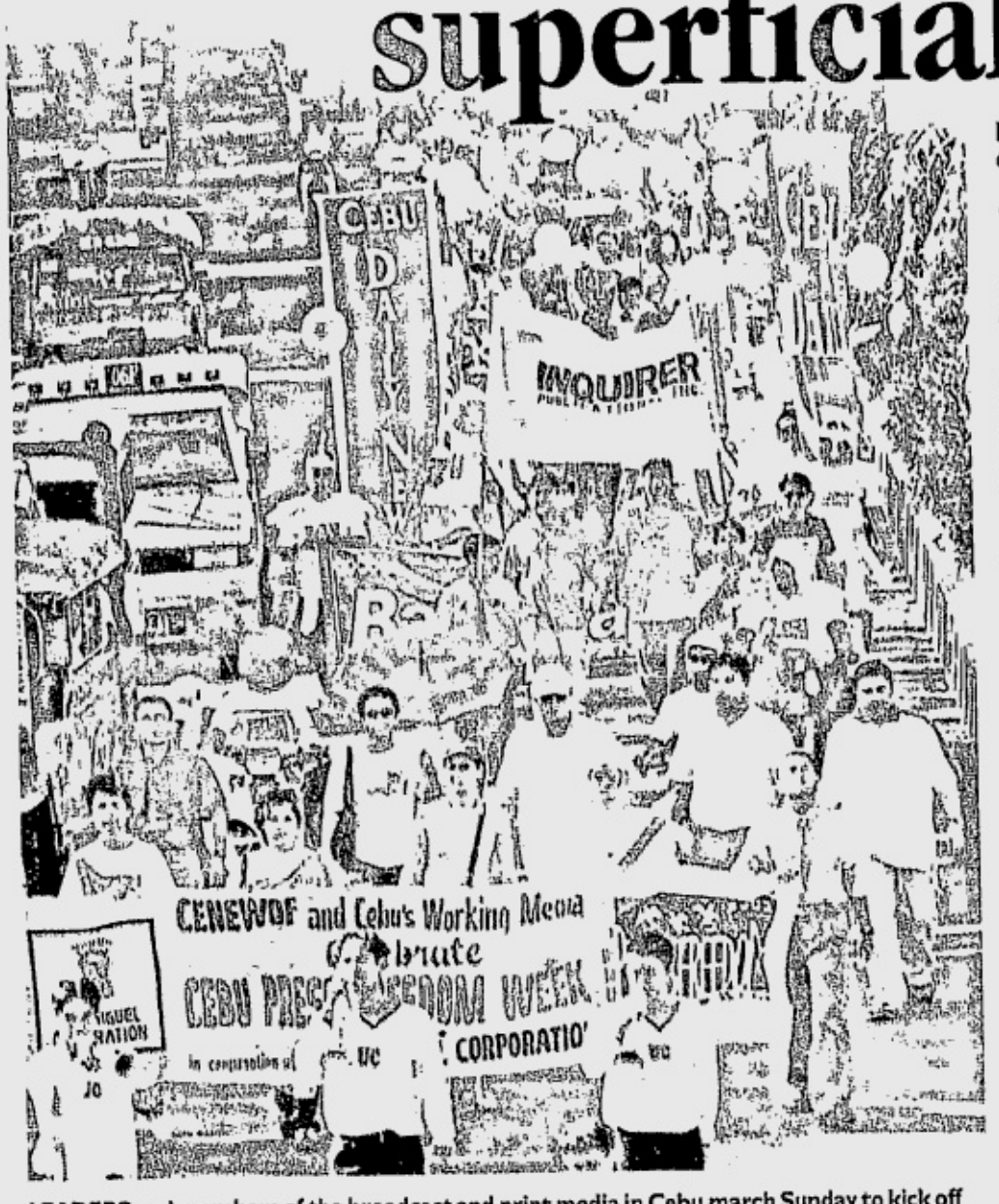
Bureau Chief **Edralyn L. Benedicto**

Press Week rites skewer superficial media's failures



LEADERS and members of the broadcast and print media in Cebu march Sunday to kick off the celebration of Press Freedom Week. JUNJIE MENDOZA

By Juan L. Mercado
Cebu City

POLITICIANS pander to media's weakness for the superficial sound bytes, and exploit "atrophied constitutional reflexes," to manipulate the press even as frail democratic institutions struggle to survive.

This stinging self-criticism is unleashed in the traditional pooled editorial, which marks the start of the annual Cebu Press Freedom Week rites. Five television and 34 radio stations aired the editorial titled "Building New Cisterns For Press Freedom." All five dailies in Cebu City published the commentary together.

"Cadres of 'people who pronounce' deafen us with unedited bombast," the editorial noted. "Visual TV soup" spills from tar-and-feather exercises, dolled up as legislative probes. Police-blotter type reporting is applied to complex issues of democratic survival.

"As a consequence, lies are recycled in print or aired without challenge," it adds. "This is journalism of unedited assertion ... Is the press failing our people today?"

In a series of pointed questions, the editorial urges both broadcast and print media to scrutinize their performance.

"Have our constitutional reflexes so atrophied, we glamorize junta builders? And why are we so superficial?" it asks. "Are we addicted to the sound byte, rather than substance? Do we prefer the obvious instead of reporting 'deep-running currents' or the hidden patterns of change? And what about corruption in our ranks?"

"Enough is enough," the highly regarded Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, Catholic clergy and laity protested in a pastoral statement. Their outburst "reflects growing unease among readers and listeners that politicians successfully play on 'our weaknesses' to suit their self-seeking agendas," the editorial asserts.

Constrained democracy

"Media does not operate in a vacuum," it points out. Filipinos live in a "constrained democracy."

Institutions rebuilt from Marcos' scorch-earth rule remain frail. Yet, "they're constantly besieged by power-seekers, through 'coups for rent' or systematic smearing ... And what can we do as the country stumbles into what will be probably the most bitter election of this century?" it asks.

Press Freedom Week coincides with the anniversary of martial law's imposition. Activities range from sessions on professional issues, like protection of news sources, annual gatherings by beat reporters, panel interviews and even a fun walk.

"'Baby-boomers,' in today's newsrooms, have no memories of media suppression. Press trailblazers like news broadcast pioneer S.D. Tecson or the assassinated crusader, columnist Antonio Abad Tormis are hazy names to most," the commentary adds.

Tormis' killing, however, was a forerunner to today's body count of slain journalists. Over 40 have been assassinated since 1986. No one has been called to account in a "culture of impunity."

Journalists who never saw martial law administrator Juan Ponce Enrile's notorious Assos—xeroxed arrest-and-seizure orders—tend to take liberty of expression "as a constitutional given, constant as the northern star."

But their predecessors paid a stiff price for freedom—from World War II resistance editors to the mosquito press that battled dictatorship. Five newsmen, in the 1950s chose jail, rather than finger sources of information.

"We drink from cisterns we never built; and we reap from vineyards we never planted," the editorial notes. And experienced editors tell their cub reporters: "When you do battle for press freedom, don't put on your best trousers."

Threats to press freedom resurface subtly in bills, filed by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Rep. Raul Gonzalez, bills to legislate right of reply—already a recognized duty in the Journalism's Code of Ethics.

"If enacted into law, this would convert government into editors," the commentary notes. "Failure by some, in our ranks, to curb 'abuse of press freedom as a marketing strategy' would be compounded by government intrusion—minus military jackboots. A constitutional no man's land would emerge."

Balance, perspective

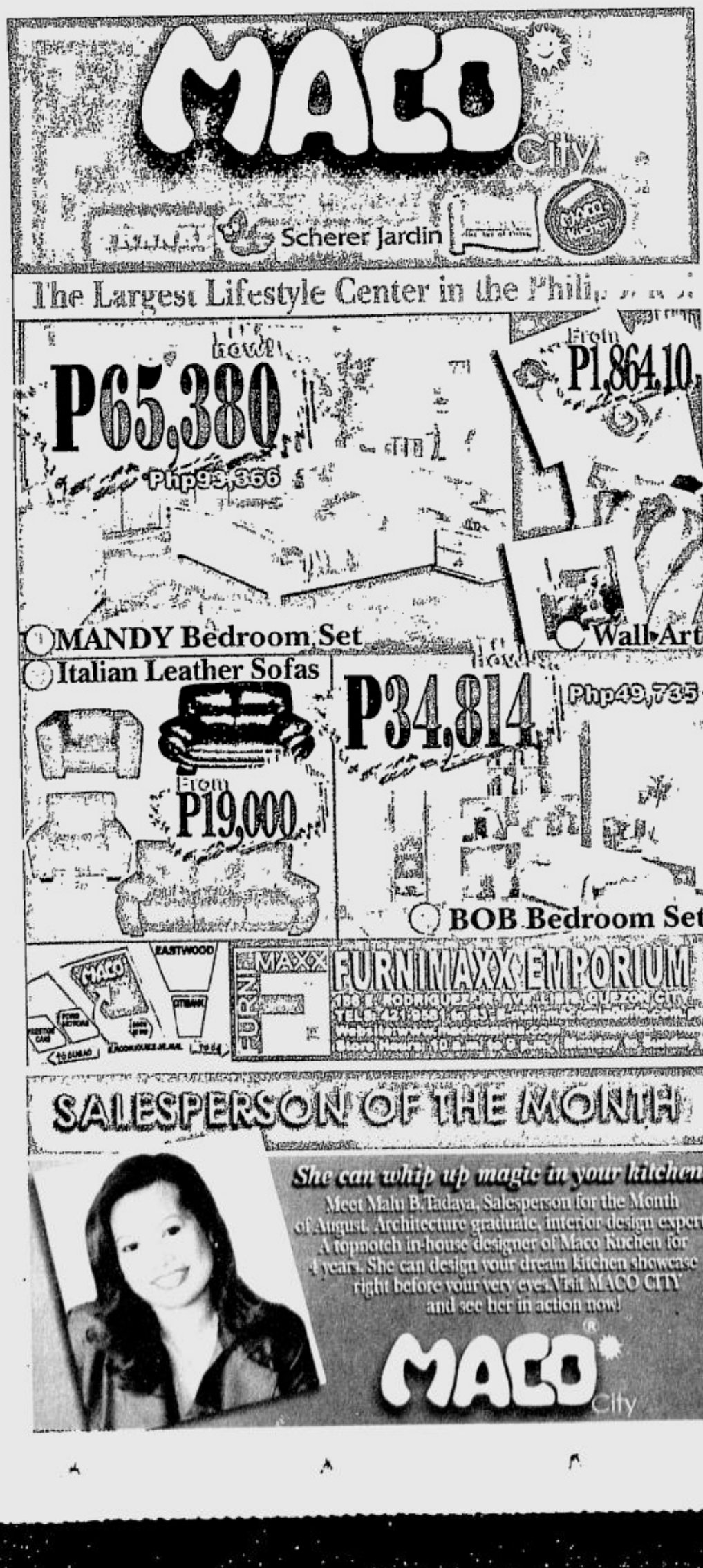
The flip side to the People Power Constitution's provision on a free press is an unspoken stipulation: that the press itself ensures it is fair—and perceptive.

"That task demands unflagging dedication to standards for daily truth seeking—a grueling task in a society of skewed privilege. This remains a country where the powerful extract what they want and the poor grant what they must."

New technology's ever-accelerating speed renders the job more complex. And the fax, cell phone and e-mail have loosened traditional editorial oversight.

"The call is for balance. We all need perspective. What advances the common good—not what entertains—should command priority," it points out.

"Journalists who come after us will also need cisterns of press freedom. We, too, must replenish that for them."



CHILD LABOR GRACE CANTAL-ALBASIN/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Child labor is a reality in the country too stark to overlook. But in some instances, it becomes necessity like for this boy who does his chores cleaning vehicles at the Luan-Luan Spring in Quezon town Bukidnon province.

Gov bans tree-cutting, transport in Cotabato

COTABATO CITY—North Cotabato has declared war on logging that even forest products that are documented would no longer be allowed passage in the province.

On Thursday, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan approved a resolution declaring the province a "no logging area."

"This simply means that no one is allowed to cut trees and loggers outside Cotabato province are not allowed to pass through Cotabato highways or its political jurisdiction," Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said.

He said the resolution would surely hurt not only loggers inside the province, but also from neighboring provinces, including the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

But Piñol said this was how sincere the provincial government is in combating forest denudation.

"I am taking the lead now to make sure that the logging operations in southern part of the Cotabato is stopped," Piñol told radio station dxMS here.

Aside from banning the cutting and transport of trees through North Cotabato, the provincial board also authorized Piñol to file charges against environment officials who issue permits or intervene in the campaign.

In the past, illegally cut forest products seized by police in the towns of Pigcawayan, Libungan and Alamada were traced from Matanog, Barira and Buldon in Maguindanao.

"But these illegal forest products become legal . . . This is the sad thing in our government, what is illegal becomes legal, easily and in just a matter of days," Piñol said.

Mayor Ernesto Concepcion of Alamada said the move would help prevent flooding.

Three months ago, flash floods blamed on thinning forest reserves hit several areas of the province, damaging millions of pesos in property and crops. *Edwin Fernandez and Rosa-May de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Napolcom starts probe of 'ghost cops'

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The National Police Commission (Napolcom) is investigating "ghost policemen" who have been receiving salaries but are no longer in the service.

Napolcom Commissioner Linda Hornilla said there are policemen who have either retired or resigned from their jobs but continue to receive salaries and benefits from government.

"There are cases of ghost policemen draining the government coffers. Their names have not been dropped from the rolls although they are not in the service anymore," she told the INQUIRER.

Hornilla, who was in Cagayan Valley to look into the physical auditing of policemen, said a policeman from the Central Police District has been getting his salary although he is now working as security officer of a bank.

What is worse, she said, is that the policeman was able to get a loan from the government. *Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

General links Kuwaiti to Abu Sayyaf

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko has linked arrested Kuwaiti national Jasem Alhassan with the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group.

Alhassan, also known as Jasem Mustafa, was arrested because of suspicions he was working for the Jemaah Islamiya to facilitate the escape from the Philippines of Indonesian bomb expert Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi.

Kyamko said one of two former Abu Sayyaf captives, who have been placed under the witness protection program, has positively identified Alhassan as part of the terror network.

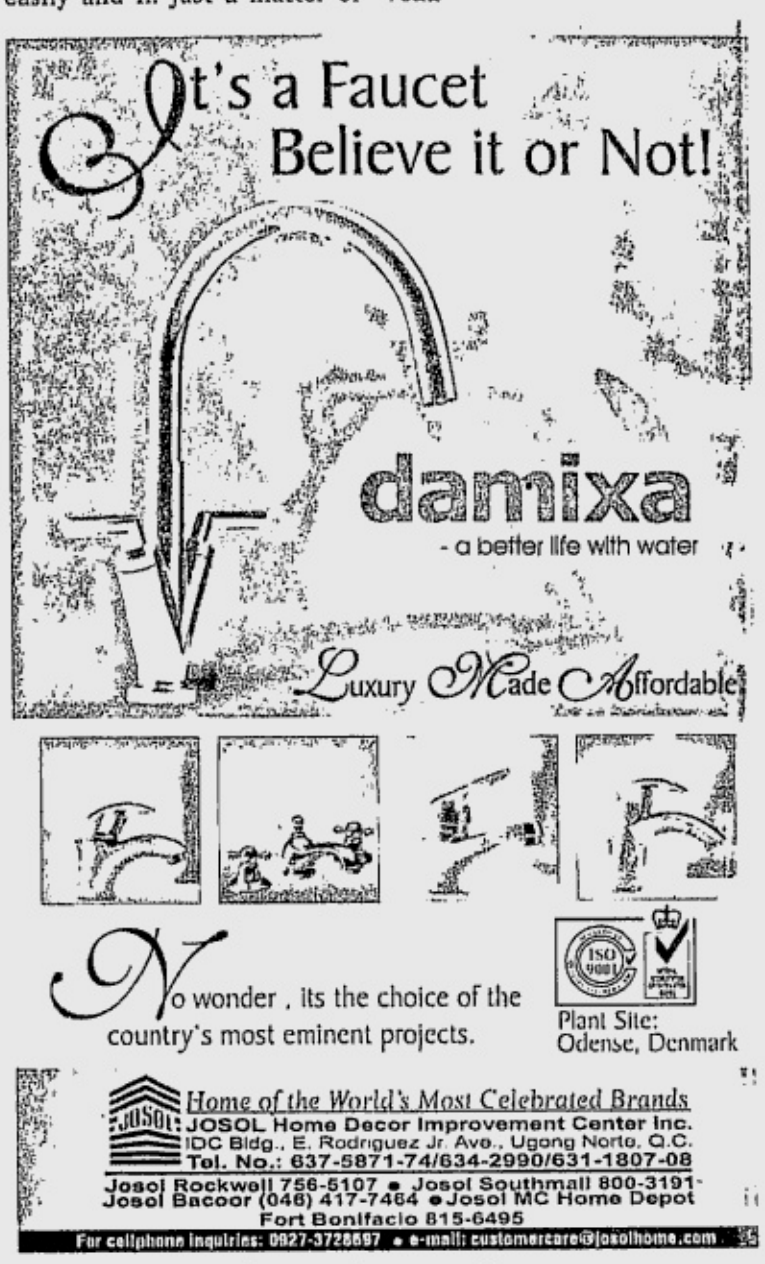
The witness, Kyamko said, saw the Kuwaiti national inside an Abu Sayyaf camp.

The former captive, whom Kyamko refused to identify, said Alhassan was with Abdul Jaafar when he saw him.

Jaafar, who also goes by the name Abu Omar, was an alleged member of a Sayyaf faction headed by Khadaffy Janjalani. He was arrested on June 15.

When asked whether Alhassan was one of the two Arab-looking men seen with Janjalani during the Dos Palmas hostage crisis, Kyamko said: "Well, we cannot really tell yet, it's a million dollar question so far."

Alhassan was arrested at the Zamboanga City Airport on Monday shortly before President Macapagal-Arroyo arrived there for a visit. *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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The Boss, 'Da King' still in the running

From page A1

torate on Oct. 7 and that President Macapagal-Arroyo would be the "overwhelming" choice to lead the administration ticket next year.

Maceda said Cojuangco has now moved the date of his announcement of his political plans from Sept. 30 to Oct. 15.

This was because Oct. 15 was the deadline set by the LDP to conclude its coalition talks with the NPC and other parties as well as for the united opposition to announce its 2004 standard-bearers, he said.

Maceda said Cojuangco would not slide down to vice president.

If he does not run for the top position, Cojuangco would just be a "backer" of whoever the united opposition would field, he said.

NPC leaders yesterday said the party was keeping its options "wide open" for an alliance in 2004.

"It's not just limited to either LDP or Lakas," said Rep. Francis Escudero, the NPC spokesperson.

He said the NPC chair Frisco San Juan and president Faustino Dy Jr. have been assigned to negotiate with all political parties.

Escudero and Rep. Gilbert Teodoro, a nephew of Cojuangco, yesterday took offense at the suggestion by Sen. Panfilo Lacson that the NPC should declare whether it is an opposition or administration party.

Lacson, the only politician to have publicly declared his plans to run for President in 2004, said it would be improper for the NPC to coalesce with the opposition if it remains in alliance with Lakas.

"We don't need to clarify anything to anybody. NPC is NPC. We have a coalition with Lakas at the House and that's that," Teodoro said.

"It's not for him to dictate to us," Escudero said of Lacson's demand.

"We're not going to shackle ourselves by declaring whether we're opposition or administration," he said.

He said the issue would be settled once Cojuangco, who ran but lost in the 1992 presidential elections, makes his final decision on his plans for 2004.

A group of 40 congressmen belonging to Lakas is openly supporting a Cojuangco presidential bid.

De Venecia earlier said that if Ms Macapagal declines to be drafted as the Lakas standard-bearer, Cojuangco was a "popular choice" among Lakas leaders.

He said Cojuangco could then become the administration standard-bearer under the Lakas-NPC coalition.

Escudero said that NPC negotiators San Juan and Dy will have until the end of October to make a report to the party's executive committee on their talks with other political parties.

Maceda said he saw "no conflict in continuing that [NPC-Lakas] arrangement in the House for purposes of legislature affairs."

He said there was nothing political in the NPC's alliance with Lakas in the House.

"It's not a political coalition but a working arrangement with regard to how the affairs of the Lower House would be run," he said.

As for the vice presidential race, Maceda said the two leading contenders for a team-up with Cojuangco, as far as the NPC rank and file are concerned, were Poe and administration Sen. Loren Legarda.

He said Legarda was in the NPC short list of vice presidential candidates because like Poe, she was a "winnable candidate."

But should a coalition with the LDP push through, it is expected that the two biggest opposition parties would push hard for their own candidates, he said.

That is why it is possible that the opposition coalition would go for a Poe-Legarda or even a Lacson-Legarda team-up, he said.

Legarda promptly issued a statement yesterday saying that she was "honored" by the "endorsement from a leading figure of the political opposition."

"This is exactly what the country needs, unity," she said.

Legarda told the INQUIRER that Maceda's statement only indicated that she was politically valuable even to the opposition camp.

She said that the prospect of serving the country in a higher position would be "a challenge and a personal sacrifice."

But apparently still conscious of being a leading member of the ruling party, Legarda did not want to appear to be making a grab for the Maceda offer.

She said the offer was "a very serious one, which would entail a lot of soul-searching and consultations which I am presently doing."

"I have to assess everything—personal, political and people's will. The most important is what position would the people want me to serve, for in the end they are the ones we are mandated to serve," she said.

She said she would make the "final decision in due time."

Though she is leading the vice presidential aspirants in the voter preference surveys, there has been no discussions with Lakas regarding the matter, she said.

Maceda said that Legarda had made public her support for Cojuangco when she raised his hand during a recent provincial sortie.

"She accepts that even if she is Lakas, she could not possibly be the vice presidential candidate of President Macapagal-Arroyo. You cannot blame her. That is the bonus that we got from a leading vice presidentiable of Lakas, and we thank her for that," said Maceda.

He boasted that the opposition had what he claimed was "an excess of talent."

"It is clear that the opposition has a better stable of presidentiables," Maceda said.

The former senator said Legarda was a political heavyweight.

"Well, she does not have what you call political machinery votes. But she has television constituency votes," he said.

Allies, foes want ...

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Ms Macapagal said: "If I have a new decision, you will know. I will announce it. Right now, my mind is set on how we can achieve peace through our involvement with the United Nations, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the US Institute of Peace. There is a time for politics and there is a time for governance."

Best for country

As to whether she would announce her decision after the national directorate of the ruling party Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrat party meets on Oct. 7, the President said "we will have to see what the result of that directorate meeting will be".

"As far as I'm concerned, I always make decisions based on what I believe would be best for the country," she said.

The President's responses were a departure from her previous statements in which she said she did not see any need to change her Dec. 30 declaration.

And while she always stopped reporters from asking her about 2004, this time she even answered the questions with a smile.

Deputy presidential spokesperson Ricardo Saludo said the President did not evade the question but answered it directly.

"It's clear that she has not yet made a decision. In her words, she is thinking about something," he said.

'Firm control'

Arriving in New York on Thursday as a public opinion survey showed her political support slumping to its lowest point in September, possibly dealing a blow to any chance of her running in May, the President brushed aside the poll results and coup rumors, declaring that she was in "firm control" of a stable country.

A survey of 1,200 people by Pulse Asia showed her approval rating slipped 10 points from August to 41 percent. Public trust in her fell eight points to 36 percent.

The same group also reported a majority of Filipinos believed the rebellious soldiers who staged a mutiny last July were justified and that another coup attempt was likely.

"Let me assure you: The nation is stable. The economy is stronger than many of our neighboring economies right now and peace in Mindanao is within our grasp," she said as she met reporters on the fringes of the UN General Assembly.

She said the Philippines, which expects to become a non-permanent UN Security Council member next year, would consider sending more forces to US-occupied Iraq in addition to 95 soldiers, police and health workers now there.

'Rumor mill'

The government peacefully put down an uprising by several hundred rogue troops on July 27 but persistent talk of another coup attempt has kept security forces on high alert.

"The rumor mill is in full tilt in our election season. That's part of our culture," Ms Macapagal said.

The fact the coup was over quickly "underscores the underlying strength of the system and that I am in firm control," she said.

The President, who is going on to Rome from New York, was however irked by suggestions that she was seeking an audience with Pope John Paul II to ask him to bless her plans for 2004.

"I will ask blessings for the country, not for me," she said, stressing that she would not be discussing politics at the Vatican.

She said she was visiting the Pope as part of her duties as President of a predominantly Catholic nation.

She said she would discuss with the Pope government policies that are in tune with Church teachings such as the official opposition to divorce, abortion and the death penalty.

The President said she has always avoided talk about politics but that other people keep harping on it.

Avoiding politics

"One of the things I have been trying to do in my two-and-a-half years as President is to avoid politics while the elections are still away. We have been doing this political circus when officials prepare for the next election as soon as they are elected. That is the cycle that I wanted to break so that we can strengthen our institutions and build a strong republic," she said.

She also addressed her critics who she said were "laughing" at her for her frequent references to God and to seeking divine guidance in her decisions.

"Some are wondering why God is not talking to them. Maybe they do not pray for discernment," she said.

She said discernment of God's plans is a doctrine of the Church and that before she became President and had more time for it, she always did "retreats of discernment" under the guidance of a Jesuit priest.

Commenting on the latest Pulse Asia survey, Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye insisted that it meant that "we have seen the worst and it is not as bad as it seems".

"Survey ratings will tend to be volatile for as long as heavy politicking runs alongside transient socio-economic problems. The long trend shows consistent trust and approval across all classes," Bunye said.

"Haters of the President have done their worst to undermine her leadership and this is the lowest rating they can get. That means core support for her is holding and there is no way her detractors are going to take this away," he said.

With a report from Reuters

Macapagal to attend OIC summit in Malaysia

From page A1

month. In due time we can have observer status in the OIC."

At a briefing, Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said Mahathir was "sympathetic" to the Philippines' diplomatic aspirations in the OIC.

Ople said the Philippines' application for observer status would probably be taken up at the OIC summit set on Oct. 16 and 17, and would be subject to the approval of the entire body.

Quoting Mahathir, Ople said the President's attendance would "strengthen further the already excellent relationship between OIC nations and the Republic of the Philippines."

He also said that the Philippines formally applied for observer status in May, and that this "important diplomatic milestone" would open richer contacts with the Islamic world in the areas of national security, economic cooperation and cultural interchange.

Ople reported that in the meeting with Mahathir, the President "requested the early resumption" next month of formal peace talks with the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Malaysia is acting as mediator of the talks.

He said the meeting also touched on the official demands of the MILF, including the withdrawal of military troops from the former rebel stronghold, the Buliok Complex, and "the question of ancestral domain, which is a rather difficult legal issue."

The military took over the Buliok Complex, a vast marshy area straddling the provinces of North Cotabato and Maguindanao, in February.

In a report by the Associated Press, Ms Macapagal said the Philippines was taking steps to address some of the concerns of the Muslim rebels in the predominantly Christian country and trying to fight poverty and injustice, the root causes of the insurgency.

"We have created the conditions for peace," she told a news conference. "Peace in Mindanao is within our grasp."

"We are promoting inter-faith understanding and there is no room for terrorism," she added.

Newly appointed Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita, who is also chief government negotiator with the MILF, said he expected progress in the peace talks.

"We expect to see the light at the end of the tunnel by the end of the year," he told reporters.

In Manila, Teresita Quintos Deles, newly named adviser of the President on the peace process, is faced with the pressing matter of whether the MILF demand for a military pullout from Buliok would be granted prior to the peace talks.

Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, Armed Forces vice chief of staff, yesterday said it was the government negotiating panel, and not the military, that could deliberate and decide on the issue.

"Details on the pullout will have to be decided at a higher level..." Garcia said in a phone interview. "I'm sure that things will be worked out ... I'm not competent to talk about that. This is at the level of the panel."

When pressed if the military could do without troops in Buliok, he said: "I think our [government] panel would be in a position to assess that very well. I'm always optimistic that there's no obstacle that can't be surmounted."

Deles, lead convenor of the National Anti-Poverty Commission, replaced Ermita as Ms Macapagal's adviser on the peace process.

"Probably Deles and Ermita will work in tandem on the Buliok issue," Garcia said.

But Mohaqher Iqbal, chief of the MILF information committee, warned that the rebels would not return to the negotiating table unless the government withdrew its troops from Buliok.

He pointed out that the pullout of troops was part of the agreement between the two camps during a meeting in Malaysia in March.

Garcia, chair of the government panel on the cessation of hostilities, said only a company of Marine soldiers remained in Buliok following the pullout and transfer of a Marine brigade to Lanao del Sur a month ago.

He said only an "insignificant number" of troops was left, and noted that the Islamic center in Buliok had been vacated by Marine troops.

An advance party of a ceasefire monitoring team from Malaysia is due to arrive next week in Mindanao, Garcia said.

"The team will conduct a survey-inspection of the area and coordinate with commanders. After that, the main bulk of the Malaysia-OIC group will come in," he said.

Earlier reports said the ceasefire and technical committees of the two camps were scheduled to meet on Oct. 4 in Davao City.

Guingona backs poll findings on mutiny; AFP questions report

From page A1

mounting the mutiny, and aired concerns about its adverse implications on the Armed Forces' "efforts at consolidation."

Citing the results of the Pulse Asia survey and quoting research director Felipe Miranda, the INQUIRER reported that 55 percent of 1,200 respondents believed that the mutineers' reasons for mounting the rebellion were justified.

Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief of staff, said these figures did not match Miranda's conclusion that Filipinos "insist on constitutional approaches to political change."

"I find the article conflicting," Garcia said in a phone interview. "The statistics do not tally with Miranda's conclusion. I'd rather believe what Miranda said even though the statistics do not back it up. He heads the Pulse Asia and interprets the findings."

"It's a wonder to me why the conclusion is on the back burner," Garcia added.

Miranda had said that while Filipinos were more prone to accepting the legitimacy of the plotters' grievances, they, however, "insist on constitutionalist approaches to political change, and thus, consider it wrong for even the presumably wronged within the military to take up arms to effect political change."

Disagreement

The INQUIRER story merged the reports of Reuters and INQUIRER reporter Ma. Ceres P. Doyo. The Reuters report did not touch on the survey's other findings indicating the Filipinos' "strongly constitutionalist orientation" and their rejection of coups or mutinies. ***See Miranda's letter to the editor***

Garcia said he had sought clarification from Miranda and found that the INQUIRER report made no mention of the finding that more than a third of the respondents disagreed with the mutineers' means in seeking redress of their grievances.

Ms Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc
Editor in chief
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Makati City

Dear Ms. Jimenez Magsanoc:

Your INQUIRER issue for today carries a headline "Poll: Mutineers justified" and a follow-up sub-heading "55% support Oakwood uprising." The write-up is by-lined Ma. Ceres Doyo, one of your paper's senior reporters.

Since the subject of coups and coupmaking is a particularly sensitive one given the times, it may be good to clarify a few things. The actual Pulse Asia findings are that most Filipinos believe that (1) the mutineers' expressed grievances have enough basis in fact, are "justifiable" in that sense and (2) the mutineers have "sufficient reason" for undertaking their rebellion at Oakwood. However, other findings indicate that their sympathetic attitude for the soldiers and their alleged grievances notwithstanding, the public maintains a strongly constitutionalist orientation and does not support coups or mutinies against the government.

Despite acknowledging the two points raised above, the plurality of Filipinos (39%) still considers what the Oakwood mutineers did to be wrong, with only 22% thinking otherwise and another 36% being "undecided" about soldiers resorting to a mutiny in having grievances attended to by government. The people's constitutionalist mindset is also clear in the fact that a majority of the public (59%) disagrees with having martial law solve the country's numerous crises.

All of these survey data and clarifications were explicitly noted in the oral presentation I made at the forum in the Ateneo Professional School in Rockwell. They are also a highly visible part of the written report circulated to members of the audience in that occasion.

I talked with your senior reporter, Ma. Ceres Doyo, earlier and she says she herself is quite surprised by how the final write-up appearing in today's issue of the INQUIRER spoke of public support for "the Oakwood uprising." She herself was at the forum and it was clear to her as well as others there that while people might sympathize with soldiers who have legitimate grievances and somehow took to joining a mutiny, the means employed by the soldeirs—the mutiny—itself was not in any way supported by our constitutionalist-minded public.

I hope that this letter merits publication in your very influential paper.

Felipe B. Miranda
Research Director, Pulse Asia

"Thirty-nine percent thought it was wrong, 22 percent thought it was right," Garcia said later at a press conference. "So there is an overwhelming majority of those who believe that what was done is wrong, and 36 percent are undecided."

When pressed about the 55 percent who believed that the mutineers' reasons for taking up arms were justified, Garcia said: "He [Miranda] said it is more of sympathy. That's how he explained it to me. Sympathy does not translate into support. These are two different things."

Garcia said he had also gathered from Miranda that Doyo also "expressed her own puzzlement and surprise at her originally written report or story that came out in the INQUIRER."

Garcia urged journalists to clarify the results of the survey with Miranda himself.

He said the INQUIRER report did not help the military officials' efforts to consolidate the AFP following the mutiny.

"I guess more circumspection and prudence should be exercised by those who are vested with the responsibility of bringing the news to our people," he said.

Vindication

Argee Guevarra, lawyer for Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV and five other mutiny leaders, hailed the survey findings, saying these were a vindication of sorts for his clients.

"Despite the shameless character assassination campaign being waged against Trillanes and his comrades by the GMA government, a government which suffers from a plunging public approval rating, the Magdalo soldiers emerged victorious in the court of public opinion," Guevarra said in a statement.

He went on to say that the Magdalo soldiers would have "scored higher in the polls" had the government not launched an alleged massive disinformation campaign against them.

"This development should very well serve as a vindication of the dramatic actions staged by the Magdalos last July 27, where they eloquently exposed the rottenness and bankruptcy of the top brass..." he said.

But former Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, speaking at a forum of the Kilosbayan at the St. Scholastica's College in Manila, dismissed some of the survey findings, particularly on the validity of the soldiers' grievances.

"The survey findings show that most Filipinos are still in favor of civilian authority, they do not want a military takeover," Reyes said. "What they are in favor [of] is merely the airing of grievances."

Reyes was among the key targets of the mutiny. The Magdalo group demanded his resignation over his alleged masterminding of the bombings in Davao City earlier this year, and the alleged corruption in the AFP, particularly the sale of government weapons and ammunition to insurgents.

Reyes said what the Pulse Asia survey had established was that Filipinos were "not in favor of these people taking over and not in favor of people employing these particular methods."

He also said the mutineers did not simply want to air soldiers' grievances, but wanted to mount a coup and establish a military junta.

Destabilization

In his speech at the forum, Reyes warned of "elements that have connections with the [financiers] of these destabilization plots."

"Reports persist," he said, but added that these moves would not succeed.

"They can start it but they can't finish it," he said.

But Guingona said security forces were in full control, and cited reports being submitted to him by the AFP and the Philippine National Police.

Guingona had earlier warned that unless the "Jose Pidal" controversy hounding the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, was settled, something "drastic" could occur in one or two months.

"I have been receiving periodic reports. I told them to include kidnapping because that seems to be the flavor of the day," Guingona said yesterday.

He also said the PNP was set to form a special task force dedicated to solving kidnapping cases, following the kidnapping incident in Parañaque early yesterday morning.

"We have to make more special teams, better teams until results are achieved," he said. *With a report from Philip C. Tubeza*

FOUR DIGIT
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(In exact order)
SUERTRES
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MEGALOTTO 6/45
17 20 39 40 41 43

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

Marikina policeman who fell victim to scam nabbed for extortion

By Luige del Puerto

FIRST, SPO3 Benito Aldeza lost his money. Now, he may just lose his honor.

Fellow lawmen arrested Aldeza Thursday while allegedly trying to extort money from a motorist along C-5 Road in Barangay Ugong.

Early this year, Aldeza of Barangay Sta. Lucia, Pasig City, and detailed with the San Roque police community precinct in Marikina, fell prey to an investment scam and lost P200,000.

Today, he has been living from paycheck to paycheck earning only P3,000 a month, according to Insp. Jovita Iquin, head of the Pasig City police criminal investigation group.

Apparently to make ends meet, the police said, the Marikina lawman had been donning the uniform of a traffic enforcer to allegedly mulct from motorists along C-5.

On Thursday, PO1 Sandy Galino, PO3 Rodrigo Sanoy, and watchman Rodrigo Legazpi were on patrol along C-5 when they chanced upon Aldeza checking the license plates of an owner-type jeep.

Galino got curious because Aldeza was not part of the city's police force.

They challenged Aldeza and asked for his identity but he refused to give his name.

The jeep driver then told the lawmen that Aldeza had stopped him for an unknown violation.

Suspicious, Galino and Sanoy inspected Aldeza's motorcycle and saw that it had no license plate. Further investigation revealed that the license of his .45 pistol had expired.

Galino recalled that he had seen Aldeza in a similar situation last month.

Aldeza, Galino related, had just flagged down two cars also on C-5.

Because he was in casual clothes, the Pasig policeman said he had to call for back up before accosting Aldeza.

However, the suspect had disappeared by the time the other lawmen arrived.

Behind bars, Aldeza denied extorting from motorists.

He, however, could not explain why he was wearing a traffic enforcer's uniform and the traffic citation tickets found in his possession.

Aldeza said he lost P200,000 to an investment syndicate but denied violating the law.

The driver he was allegedly trying to extort from decided not to press charges.

However, he faces a charge for illegal possession of a firearm.

Kidnapped

7 armed men snatch boy on the way to school

THE COMPOSITE sketches of three of the abductors, based on witnesses' accounts.

By Margaux Ortiz

AT LEAST seven armed men snatched a 12-year-old boy who was on his way to school yesterday morning in Parañaque City.

The kidnappers struck just as Malacañang played down the latest rash of abductions in the country as the work of "small-time fly-by-night" operators.

According to Senior Supt. Ronald Estilles, Parañaque police chief, the boy was abducted while he was on his way to an exclusive school in Makati City at around 6:30 a.m. on Diosdado Macapagal Blvd. near the Coastal Mall.

Estilles said the boy, a resident of Marina Asia World Subdivision, was with three of his relatives on board a green Honda Civic when a taxi blocked their path.

Estilles said another vehicle—a Mitsubishi Adventure (MEL 334)—also blocked the victim's car from behind.

The suspects, armed with M-16 rifles and .45-caliber pistols, then got down from the two vehicles and broke the windshield and right rear window of the victim's car.

One of the men then rammed his rifle inside the car and fired a shot which went through the roof, Estilles said. The suspects then took the boy and fled on board the getaway vehicles.

Estilles said the taxi which the suspects used to block the victim's car was forcibly taken from a driver along the Airport Road earlier.

The driver, Margarito Potojot of Caloocan City, was forced to ride with the suspects during the kidnapping, Estilles said.

The police chief said the suspects left behind Potojot, along with the victim's driver and relatives.

Police said the taxi was recovered on Macapagal Boulevard later in the day.

The abduction occurred just after the PNP and business leaders met earlier this week to discuss the resurgence in kidnapping cases. *With reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Alcuin Papa*

TWO OF the robbery victims, still shaken from their ordeal, try to get a moment's peace in Camp Karingal. JOAN BONDOC

Bandits flee with P.85-M QC payroll

By Tina Santos

IT HAPPENED in broad daylight right inside the busy and crowded compound of the Quezon City Hall.

Two armed men on a motorcycle took P850,000 intended for the payroll of employees of the QC Social Services Development Department (QC-SSDD).

According to the police, social services employees Zenaida Cladesilla, 52, administrative officer; Danilo Malabasco, 43; and Helen Gallmosa, 36, were walking back to their office when the incident occurred at 10:30 a.m.

The three had just withdrawn the money from the Landbank of the Philippines branch which was 30 meters away from the QC-SSDD office located at the back of City Hall.

The suspects struck in front of the Philippine National Red Cross office with one of the suspects pointing a gun at Malabasco, who was holding the bag containing the money.

After grabbing the money, the gunman jumped onto a motorcycle where another suspect was waiting. They then drove off toward East Avenue.

QC-SSDD employees said it was the first time such a robbery occurred saying they never had to take an armed guard with them because the bank was a mere five-minute walk from their office.

Also, the daylight robbery took place some 50 meters from the City Hall detachment of the Central Police District.

P02 Manny Gragasin said the three QC-SSDD employees failed to see the suspects' faces because both were wearing helmets.

However, they described these as 5'4" to 5'5" in height, well-built and fair-skinned.

Some investigators said they were not ruling out an inside job since none of the three employees shouted for help.

Cop fires gun over girl friend

JEALOUSY and a gun make a bad combination.

Before dawn yesterday, Marco Molses, 20; Cleto Lozada, 20; and Mauro Ligas, 22, were having fun inside Padi's Point at the corner of Tomas Morato and Timog Avenue when they decided to befriend a girl.

The trio, all criminology students at the Manuel L. Quezon University, did not know that the girl was with SPO1 Noel Reodica of the Central Police District: Cubao station.

As they were talking to the girl, Reodica suddenly appeared and allegedly challenged them to a fight.

The policeman, who was reportedly jealous, dragged the trio outside the pub where Reodica allegedly pistol-whipped one of them with his .45-caliber pistol.

He then allegedly fired several times at the victims. Fortunately, none of the shots found their mark.

Reodica was arrested by responding lawmen.

The suspect-lawman later denied pulling a gun and shooting at the victims.

Reodica added that he just tried to help the woman who had complained of being harassed by the three men.

However, several witnesses backed up the allegations against Reodica, who now faces possible dismissal from the service. *Tina Santos*

Kris' misplaced candor

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

NEW YORK (via PLDT)—Even among reporters and members of the Malacañang press staff covering the visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo to the United Nations, the talk at the press center was not about the significance of GMA's trip, but Kris Aquino's revelation that she was infected with a sexually transmitted disease (STD) by her estranged lover, Joey Marquez.

The press center, where reporters filed their stories for the visit, is located at the Radisson Hotel, a few meters from Waldorf Astoria, where the official presidential party is billeted.

One reporter even asked the President in a press conference earlier at the Waldorf Astoria for her comment on the Kris-Joey quarrel and Kris' revelation. GMA said, "Not now."

***

Everybody, except possibly Kris, is now pondering over the consequences of her revelation on national television.

Korina Sanchez, Kris' co-host at the "Morning Girls Show" at ABS-CBN Channel 2, and to whom she made the public confession, said she was shocked by Kris' revelation. Sanchez is covering the UN presidential visit.

"Perhaps Kris didn't know what she was saying," said a reporter from a national daily, "or she would not have said that at all."

Everybody is worried about the dire consequences her big mouth might have on the daughter of former President Cory Aquino and national hero Benigno Aquino. Everybody, except possibly Kris Aquino herself.

If she thought she would destroy Marquez, she didn't know she would also self-destruct.

No Pinoy male after Marquez will go down on her anymore. If ever, her future sex partner will invariably use a condom.

In short, no Pinoy male will take her seriously from now on.

***

Boys starting out on sexual promiscuity who admit to having contracted STD do so only to their closest friends. They don't want to be exposed to public ridicule.

It was unthinkable why Kris, admired and envied by millions, would confess on national TV that she got the "clap."

Was she "high" on some medication when she said that?

***

Personally, I find Kris a very likable person. I saw a kindred spirit in her because she speaks her mind.

"I kinda like you, but my mother hates you," she told me after guesting in her program some years back. She placed emphasis on "hate" by prolonging the word.

She's described as *"taklesa"* (tactless) by friends and detractors alike.

***

If there's anything that can be said about Kris, she's a very candid person.

But her candor has placed her in a bad light.

Let's hope the crisis she faces in the aftermath of that misplaced candor would blow over.

Kris, daughter of Benigno Aquino, the martyr, is a national icon in her own right.

Security guard gunned down after stepping out of church

A SECURITY guard was shot dead in front of his wife early Thursday evening moments after attending a religious service in Navotas.

Allan de la Rama, 31, of Cattleya Street, North Bay Boulevard, South Navotas, sustained a gunshot wound each in the stomach, back and armpit and died on the way to the Tondo General Hospital.

The police said De la Rama and his wife, Cherrie, had just attended services at an Iglesia ni Cristo chapel when a lone gunman struck at about 7 p.m.

De la Rama and Cherrie were walking near the chapel when the suspect, in a black cap and jacket, fired several shots from a .45-caliber pistol.

Cherrie told the police that the suspect casually walked away after the incident before hopping in a gray car.

The car sped off toward Manila. However, the woman failed to get the car's plate number.

Police investigators are looking into reports that the suspect was a hired killer. They also have yet to establish a motive in the killing. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Lawman sacked for moonlighting as security officer of Makati bank

THE NATIONAL Police Commission (Napolcom) is set to dismiss a policeman for working as chief security officer of a Makati bank while still an active member of the Philippine National Police (PNP).

Agents of Napolcom's Inspection, Monitoring and Investigation Service (IMIS) have recommended the filing of administrative charges against SPO4 Francisco De Castro Bacierto Jr.

Napolcom Commissioner Linda Malenab-Hornilla said the policeman violated Republic Act No. 6713, known as the "Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees."

Hornilla said that Bacierto also violated a Napolcom memorandum circular prohibiting PNP members from "engaging in any remunerative or gainful occupation or activity during off duty hours without approval of proper authority."

The commissioner revealed that the case stemmed from a complaint filed by a concerned citizen against the suspect, assigned at the PNP Headquarters Support Service in Camp Crame.

According to the complainant, Bacierto worked as the security officer of the Equitable-PCI Bank branch on Makati Avenue.

Records revealed that Bacierto continues to draw pay from the national police, as reflected in the PNP Computer Service's list of continuous form checks issued to the suspect from August 1995 up to September 2003.

The bank that employs the suspect has also issued a letter addressed to the Napolcom-IMIS chief certifying that Bacierto is the head of the security and investigation department of the bank, with the rank of senior manager over the same time period.

In his affidavit, Bacierto claimed that he resigned from the police service on Oct. 14, 1996, and denied having received a single cent from the PNP.

But a PNP administrative finance officer said that since Bacierto's transfer of assignment to the PNP Headquarters in April 2001, she has been receiving the suspect's salary on Bacierto's behalf.

She said she "encashed" the checks and gave the money to Bacierto who personally claimed it at the PNP Headquarters.

Bacierto's loan ledger even reflected that the Armed Forces and Police Savings and Loan Association, Inc. (AFPSLAI) granted him a loan of P70,000 in 2001. *Margaux Ortiz*

METROBRIEFS

Hot meat seized

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industry has confiscated some P9 million worth of smuggled Ma-Ling brand luncheon meat and frozen poultry products. Bureau Director Jose Q. Molina has directed the Bureau of Customs district collector in Subic to seize the eight container vans after he learned that no permits had been issued to the importers. Molina has recommended that the seized products be destroyed to prevent its entry into the local markets and affect sales of locally manufactured processed meat and other frozen products. *Christine Gaylican*

Boatman slain in Manila

BOATMAN Cornelio Valle, 28, yesterday met a bloody end in the hands of his drinking buddy. SPO2 Virgo Villareal said the victim had a fight with Cesar Mariano near Valle's house on M.H. del Pilar corner Padre Faura streets at around 3:30 a.m. yesterday. Mariano allegedly used a pointed object to stab Valle four times. Police said the suspect was seen running along M.H. del Pilar before boarding a jeepney. Valle's wife Genelyn took the victim to the Ospital ng Maynila where he was declared dead. *Leila Salaverria*

Fire in Cainta

THIRTEEN families on Thursday night were rendered homeless after a fire gutted their houses in Cainta, Rizal. Fire authorities said an unattended candle might have caused the fire at a residential compound in Barangay San Juan. P02 Glenn Cuevas said the hour-long fire started at around 7 p.m. at the house of a Beng Rialgo. Within minutes, the fire had spread to neighboring houses. No one was injured in the blaze, authorities said. *Luige del Puerto*

Special screenings at UP

NATIONAL Artists for Film, Literature and the Arts, along with cultural representatives from Unesco member states, including France, Germany, Spain, Japan, India, Sweden, Switzerland, Mexico and Australia, will gather on Sept. 27 at the UP Film Center to celebrate the 2003 Unesco Paris Conference. There will be special screenings at 7 p.m. at the UP Film Center Cinemalibre Theater, Magsaysay Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Admission is free.

Campaign management gab

RHETORICS Company will hold a training seminar on political campaign management dubbed "Running Campaigns in 2004 Elections" on Sept. 27 at The Meeting Place, InterContinental-Manila, Makati City. Commission on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos and Prof. Felipe Miranda, Pulse Asia founding chair, head the cast of speakers.

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Ateneo ace guard Tenorio sacked

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE SNEAK punch to the abdomen escaped the eyes of the referees.

But after twin video reviews of last Thursday's stormy La Salle-Ateneo ballgame, the UAAP Board yesterday ruled to sack ace guard LA Tenorio, who was caught (on tape) laying a closed fist on La Salle's Jerwin Gaco shortly before the bench-clearing melee near the end of the regulation period.

Tenorio, solid source of Ateneo's fluid game, will be suspended for one game, together with teammate Badjie del Rosario.

Suspended for one game on the La Salle side was Ryan Araña.

The suspensions will take effect on the next game re-scheduled on Tuesday, when perennial bitter rivals Ateneo and La Salle square off once again for the right to face early finalist Far Eastern.

UAAP technical committee head Kiko Diaz said the board has decided to move the date of the rubber-match to Sept. 30 instead of today "for security and safety reasons."

The game will still be held at the Araneta Coliseum at 3 p.m..

"We felt that, because of what happened on Thursday, the emotions of the players and officials involved are too high that it might result into a worse scenario," said Diaz.

The UAAP Board rendered the decision following a marathon meeting in Quezon City yesterday afternoon.

In the video re-run, Tenorio was seen hitting Gaco in the abdomen.

La Salle's bench was next observed swarming the Ateneo side of the court following the altercation between Gaco and Tenorio.

The UAAP board also admitted that the referee erred in ejecting Ateneo's Magnum Membrere when it was Del Rosario who actually shoved a La Salle player.

Araña got ejected after kicking Ateneo's Wesley Gonzales.

UAAP rules state that ejected players automatically earn a one-game suspension.

La Salle assistant team manager Manny Salgado and Ateneo coaching staff member Bob Marquicias were also suspended for acts "highly uncalled for, considering that as team officials, they should have been the ones pacifying the players."

Salgado said he respects the decision of the board but maintained that he went to the Ateneo bench trying to stop the players.

However, Salgado said he was met by Marquicias "who was in a fighting stance."

The UAAP board also came out with a ground rule as an offshoot of the melee.

The league will now observe a "cooling off" period wherein teams with complaints are allowed only to air their gripes to the commissioner's office 30 minutes after the game. The rule prevents team officials or players from approaching game officials during halftime or immediately after the game-ending buzzer.

Diaz added that the UAAP board has also written the Araneta Coliseum security group to beef up its personnel for Tuesday's do-or-die match.

■ **Beermen end losing spell with Johnson** /A23

■ **US, Russia post big wins** /A24

PSC denies importing 17 horses

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain emphasized yesterday that the agency had "no participation whatsoever" in the alleged importation of racehorses by Pampanga Vice Gov. and presidential son Mikey Arroyo.

Buhain said the PSC had only approved the tax-free importation of five horses which were endorsed by the Philippine Equestrian Federation.

The PSC, according to Buhain, and the PFF had planned to create an equestrian program as a result of Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski's gold-medal feat during the Busan Asian Games, but it did not materialize.

No other request for tax exemption was issued by the agency, he said.

"I don't know how the PSC got involved in the issue. But as far as we are concerned, we have no participation in that said importation of horses whatsoever," Buhain told the INQUIRER.

He added that the PSC only gives tax exemptions to national sports associations wanting to import equipment or, equestrian horses in the case of the PFF.

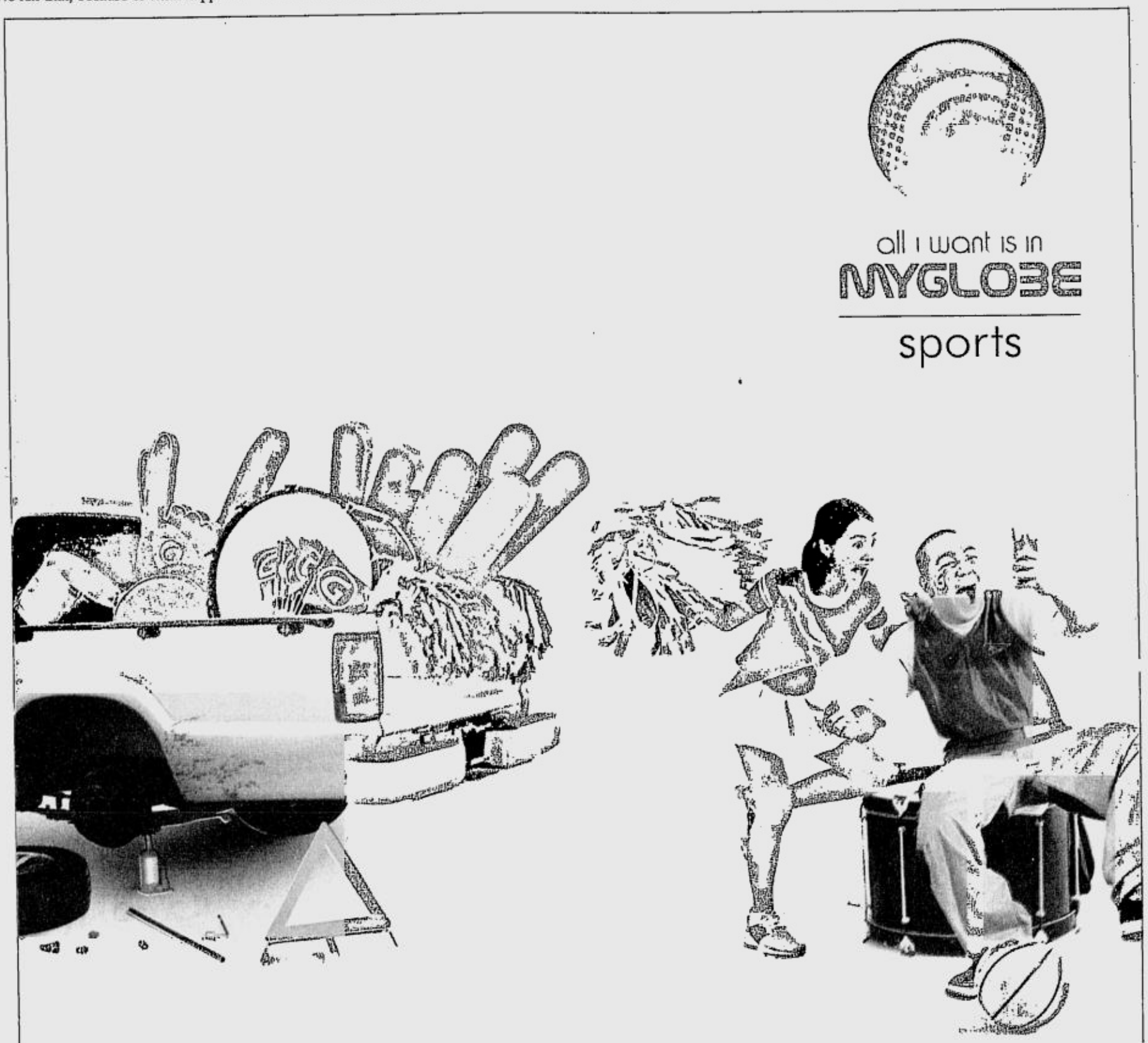
"What I can't understand is why they are dragging the PSC here. If the PSC needs to import horses, we can make representations for tax exemptions," said Buhain. "But reports said taxes were paid for the questioned horses. That only means the PSC didn't participate in the importation at all."

Reports said the importation of the 17 racehorses came in the same July 22 request by PSC for the five equestrian training horses. All 22 horses got exemptions from customs taxes and duties.

Racehorse owners Lamberto Almeda Jr. and Dante Arevalo had earlier claimed importing the horses from Australia and paid P525,222 as tax payment.

However, the horses were said to be registered to Franchino Pamintuan, Amparo Pamintuan (Arroyo's cousins) and Franchino Farms, although reports said their quarantine papers showed that the importer was the PSC.

The same report said Bureau of Animal Industry records showed that the PSC was to import a stock horse, Irish sport horse, a part Arab pony, Warmblood and a cross-bred from Australia to be used for "competition."



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RTU, Lyceum tossers dispute lead

A PAIR of games between unbeaten squads will highlight today's hostilities in the 34th Women's National Collegiate Athletic Association (WNCAA) adidas tournament.

The senior volleyball teams of Rizal Technological University (8-0) and defending champion Lyceum of the Philippines (7-0) square off at 11 a.m. at the Chiang Kai Shek College gym.

RTU is coming off a 25-18, 25-17, 25-13 victory Sunday over host Siena College of Quezon City while Lyceum beat College of Saint Benilde, 25-8, 25-7, 25-9.

In junior basketball at the St. Scholastica's College gym, defending champion Miriam College (6-0), will test the mettle of home team St. Scholastica's (5-0).

A win for both RTU and Miriam will give them a sweep of the elimination round.

Also seeking a sweep of the basketball event are defending senior champion Lyceum and reigning midgets titlist Assumption College.

Lyceum (8-0) takes on Miriam College (4-2) in the 6:30 p.m. main match while Assumption (4-0) battles St. Scho (0-4) at 12:30 p.m.

ABC TILT

Hong Kong humbles RP quintet

HARBIN, China—Philippines-Cebuana Lhuillier bowed to winless Hong Kong, 58-66, in the consolation round of the Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) Championships at the Heilongjian University gym here Friday.

Unable to follow up their smashing 83-67 win over Jordan at the close of the first round Thursday, the Filipinos absorbed their third loss in four matches and will be hard-pressed to improve on the country's 11th place finish in Fukuoka, Japan, in 1999.

The Filipinos now need to sweep Kuwait on Saturday and Syria on Sunday to earn a crack at 11th place.

It was only the first win for Hong Kong, which had lost all its three games in the elimination round.

The game had appeared headed for a thrilling wind-up as the Filipinos kept the score close.

Hong Kong took the half 35-32.

In the pivotal third period, the taller Hongkongites, however, unleashed a crippling 18-4 run to break the game wide open, 53-36.

Hong Kong, which bagged the Super Kung Sheung Heyuan Cup over the same Cebuana Lhuillier-backed Philippine team early this month, made 13 three-point shots against only three by the Filipinos.

Tam Wai Ye topscored for Hong Kong with a game-high 17 points, including 4-of-5 shooting from the three-point zone.

Former Far Eastern hotshot Celino Cruz was the leading scorer for the Filipinos with nine points, although he made only 1-of-5 attempts from the three-point area.

Ex-pro Ricky Calimag added eight points, while Marc Pingris contributed seven points and 12 rebounds.

Scores:

HONG KONG 66—Tam Wai Ye 17, Choi Fong 12, Poon Chi Kim 10, Wu Kwok Fu 10, Yung Kam 7, Chau Kam 6, Li Wai 4, Yung Man Tak 0, Li Ka Yu 0, Lau Chi Kim 0.

RP-CEBUANO LHUILLIER 58—Cruz 9, Calimag 8, Pingris 7, De Guzman 7, Wilson 6, Omolon 6, Melencio 5, Menor 5, Oreta 3, Madrid 2, Nicdao 0, Franco 0.

Quarters: 19-15, 35-32, 53-36, 66-58

ZHANG Jinsong (left) of China goes for a shot against a Taiwanese defender during the first half of their game in the 22nd Asian Basketball Championship in Harbin, China. The hosts routed the Taiwanese, 121-61. AP

Beach volley under way

BRUTE force and good looks will be the order of the day when the third stage of the 2003 Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball Tournament begins at 9 a.m. today at the La Salle Greenhills beach volleyball courts.

Petron vice president for marketing affairs Joey Campos will hit the ceremonial serve in the two-day volleyball extravaganza.

Twenty teams will be vying for the crown, plus the P10,000 and P5,000 cash prizes at stake for the champion and runner-up squads.

Leading the tournament cast is actress Isabel Granada, who will team up with Mary Sol Teves.

Yeo the chosen one

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

AS always, it happened again.

De La Salle defeated Ateneo on Thursday when it was not supposed to. The 76-72 overtime win stunned no one even as the Blue Eagles were the heavy favorites to prevail over the Green Archers.

It happens that each time both schools collide, almost always, everything evens up.

All the statistics matter no more. Player profiles matter no more. Past records of their encounters matter no more. Everything's "even steven."

Look, Ateneo beat De La Salle twice in the eliminations. Going to Thursday's contest, that stat was of no consequence anymore. The crowd that packed the Big Dome to the rafters believed in only one thing: Almost every Ateneo-De La Salle game is a classic. The millions who watched the game on Studio 23 had also adhered to that—as always.

It doesn't matter, too, that Ateneo was No. 1 after the two-round eliminations, attesting to its readiness to retain the crown it had so dramatically won last year against—who else?—De La Salle itself.

It doesn't matter, too, that De La Salle was No. 4 after the two-round eliminations, attesting to a raw-laden lineup following the graduation of its certified stars.

Because of their respective positions after the eliminations, Ateneo earned the luxury of a rule requiring it to just beat De La Salle once to enter the UAAP Finals—against Far Eastern University. De La Salle needed to beat Ateneo twice to advance.

Seers and the battle-scarred experts on matters of predicting the outcome of games have been known to slam their crystal balls to the floor repeatedly in anger over their failure to correctly predict the results of Ateneo-De la Salle clashes.

Last Thursday's game was no exception.

The wise-money bet was on Ateneo. And why not?

The Blue Eagles have the most formidable lineup in the league, have the nation's hottest coach in Joel Banal, have the almost unassailable stature as the top campus team in the land today.

Yet, it happened. Again.

De La Salle destroyed Ateneo and it shocked no one, not even Franz Pumaren, the Archers' coach who couldn't hide his pride after the fact.

"Maybe, the Lord went to watch another De La Salle-Ateneo game," said Pumaren, a pointed reference to Joel Banal's penchant to attribute his previous championship victories "as the work of God."

OK, you want religion, fellas?

The hand of God was very evident in the last three seconds of the game on Thursday. God had wanted De La Salle to win, as seen in the fact that Rich Alvarez missed a semi-hook shot at point-blank range that could have won it for Ateneo in regulation.

Alvarez' shot was a bit sharp and lacked the loop that might have given Rich the so-called shooter's bounce. Only God's hand could have altered the trajectory of Alvarez's ill-fated shot.

In denying Ateneo the win, God's message was that He has children other than Joel Banal and the Ateneo Blue Eagles. One of those was, aside from Franz Pumaren, Joseph Yeo.

There couldn't be a more chosen one on Thursday than Yeo.

Yeo fired a game-high 31 points, including 7 of De La Salle's last 11 points in overtime. Yeo played as if he could not make a mistake that you are almost forced to start questioning his fallibility, if not his origins. Boy, was he an alien or Gabriel D Archangel this particular night?

Ateneo and De La Salle will meet again in a winner-take-all match. I hope that after their knockout match, the losing coach will not accuse God of playing favorites. Unfair.

God has no forum to defend Himself.

***

FASTBREAK. It would break my heart if the PBA governors would suddenly remove Noli Eala as PBA Commissioner after the Department of Justice had reversed the Quezon City prosecutor's ruling dropping the adultery case against Noli. Kicking a man when he is down would be the unkindest act a man could inflict on his fellowman. Surely, the DOJ ruling was a big blow for Noli and I could only wish that he'd emerge from this rut victorious, if not wiser from the ways of this cruel world-sometimes, that is.

Hawks, Vikings favored

STANDINGS	W	L
UM*	12	0
World Citi*	8	4
U.Makati*	7	5
St. Clare*	7	5
PLP	3	9
Holy Angel	3	9
CEU	2	10

*—clinched semis berth

GAMES MONDAY
10 a.m.—UM vs. St. Clare
1 p.m.—World Citi vs. University of Makati

IT will be University of Manila against St. Clare College and World Citi College against University of Makati in Monday's semifinals of the 2003 National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) basketball tournament.

The UM-St.Clare match is scheduled at 10 a.m. at the CEU gym, while the World Citi-University of Makati duel is set at 1 p.m. at the UM gym.

The Hawks, who completed a rare 12-game sweep of the eliminations, and the Vikings, who finished second with an 8-4 win-loss card, need only to win over their respective opponents to set up a title showdown.

The Wizards and the Saints, who both finished with identical 7-2 records, must win to forge a playoff on Sept. 30.

The championship game is set on Oct. 1.

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Beermen end losing spell with Johnson

By June Navarro

SAN MIGUEL Beer squeezed out quality minutes from Arnold Gamboa and Kwan Johnson and finally crashed into the win column by wearing down Purefoods, 85-73, last night in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Gamboa pumped in 11 of his 12 points in the third quarter while Johnson, although visibly exhausted from a long flight from the United States, almost had a triple-double for the Beermen's breakthrough win in six games.

Johnson, San Miguel Beer's third import in the conference, arrived Thursday.

The 2001 United States Basketball League Most Valuable Player posted a team-high 26 points, 13 rebounds and seven assists in an almost no-relief game.

"I felt very sleepy, my legs were quite heavy and I could not jump as much as I wanted to. So what I did was get my teammates into the game," said the 6-foot-3 Johnson, a former import of the Sta. Lucia Realtors in the 2000 season, who replaced Shea Seals.

Johnson successfully got Dondon Hontiveros, Olsen Racela, Nic Belasco and Gamboa into the flow as the Beermen cut loose from a low-scoring halftime lead, 32-26, to grab total control, 79-61, in the dying minutes of the fourth period.

GAME TODAY *(Calape, Bohol)*
5 p.m.—Ginebra vs Shell

Johnson combined with Boybits Victoria, Marlon Legaspi, Hontiveros, Racela and Belasco down the stretch to send the Hotdogs to a second consecutive defeat in a 1-5 card.

Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio again failed to draw another strong game from import Harold Arceneaux, who could have played his last game in the tournament.

The Hotdogs have tapped Derrick Brown to replace Arceneaux but have yet to receive word on when the 2002 Governors Cup Best Import is due.

Willie Miller and rookie Enrico Villanueva combined for 13 points in the final two minutes as Red Bull Barako turned back Coca-Cola, 97-91, in the second game.

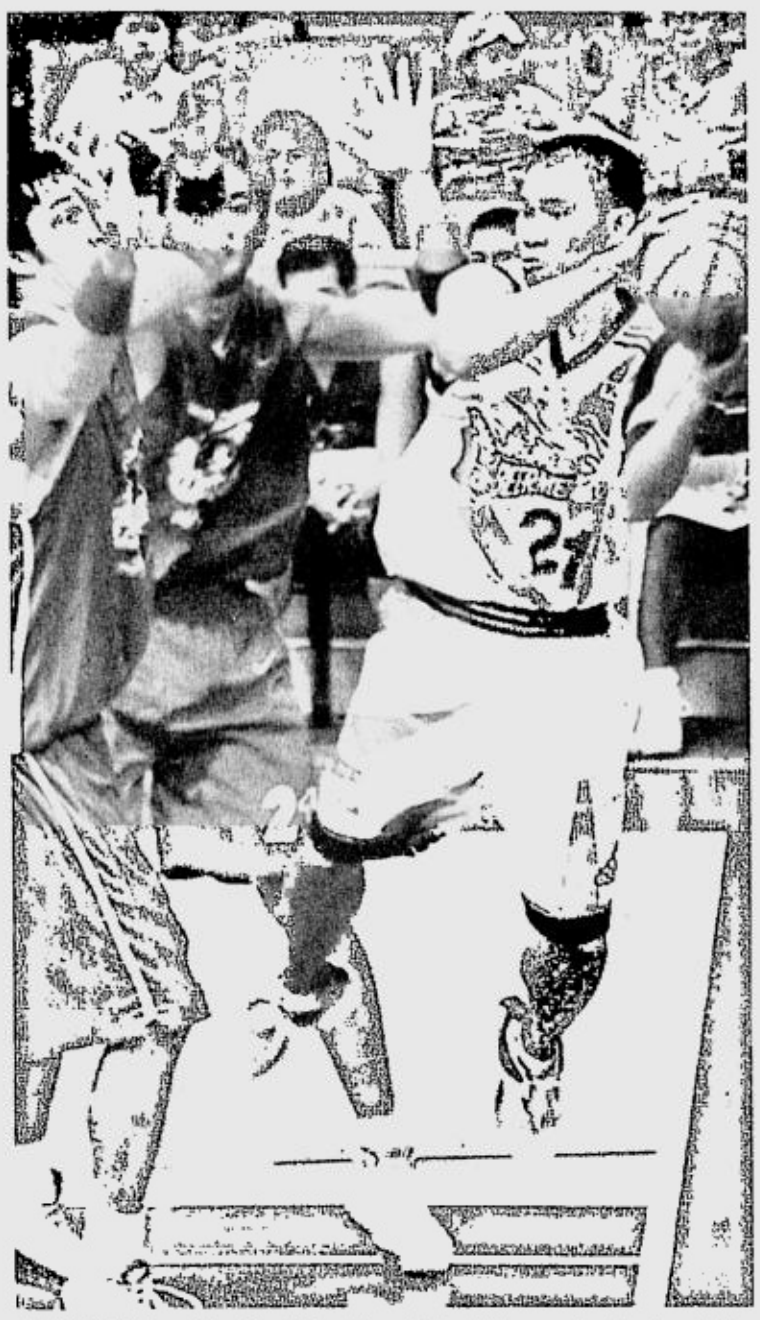
The Thunder halted the erstwhile unbeaten Tigers' five-game win streak while picking up their fourth victory in six games.

Scores:

SAN MIGUEL 85—Johnson 26, Hontiveros 16, Gamboa 12, Belasco 11, Racela 10, Mente 6, Legaspi 2, Victoria 2, Paras 0.

PUREFOODS 73—Arceneaux 15, Raymundo 15, Castillo 13, Fernandez 9, Patrimonio 7, Mamaril 6, Yee 4, Seigle 2, Demape 2, Evangelista 0, Santos 0.

Quarters: 15-12, 32-26, 60-49, 85-73.



A DRIVING Joey Mente of San Miguel Beer is trapped at the baseline by Purefoods' big men and opts to pass. RUDY ESPERAS

Yao close to deal with Reebok

NEW YORK—Yao Ming of the Houston Rockets, who endorsed Nike products last year, is close to reaching an agreement with rival Reebok, a person familiar with the discussions said Thursday.

The potential signing of the 2.29-meter (7-foot-6) center would be somewhat of a coup for Reebok. *AP*

Cabatu top draft pick by ITCSI five

LA SALLE'S Jun Jun Cabatu, son of former two-time MVP Sonny, was made the No. 1 pick by ITCSI for the 2003 Platinum Cup during yesterday's Rookie Draft at the Makati Coliseum.

A tough defender and a fearless slasher, the 6-foot-3 Cabatu is expected to recall the exploits of his 6-foot-5 father during the early '80s.

The elder Cabatu was the only two-time MVP of the PABL, forerunner of the PBL.

"He's a good player and he deserved to be the No. 1 pick. Overall, *maganda ang resulta ng* (we had good results in the) drafting, both in the Rookie and Dispersal," said Commissioner Chino Trinidad.

In a bid to make up for a sorry performance in the last conference where it finished 8th, ICTSI also picked Tyrone Tang and Jose Redemptor Aquino, also of La Salle.

ICTSI also plucked 6-foot-7 Ervin Sotto in the dispersal draft.

Fil-Australian Jason Grigg was Pop Cola's No. 2 pick, followed by UP's Jay-R Reyes (Welcoat), UP's Kenneth Robin, 6-foot-4 Nathaniel Cruz of Mapua (Montana), FEU's Arwind Santos (Viva Mineral Water) and Christopher Intal.

The defending champions Paint Masters boosted their lineup by taking NCAA MVP Leo Nacorda in the 2nd round and UE's Nino Canaleta in the 3rd. They also took Christian Guevara (4th round), Nino Marquez (5th) and Ricardo Ong (6th).

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SPORTSWATCH

Badminton tourney Oct. 4-26

THE COUNTRY'S best players are seeing action in the Philippine Badminton Tournaments Invitational Championship slated Oct. 4-26 at the Valle Verde Country Club. Vietnam Southeast Asia Games-bound Ian Piencenaves, Arolas Amahit and Jaime Junio will spearhead their respective teams. Also participating are former national players and top club players. Total cash at stake is P240,000 with the champion team getting P120,000. Project director Weena Lim and marketing arm Audience Impact Inc. are optimistic that the event will become the country's premier badminton series on TV. Games will be shown every Sunday on RPN 9 (4-6 p.m.) and every Tuesday and Thursday on Solar Sports (6-8 p.m.).

Checkmate clinic begins today

THE SIXTH series of Milo Checkmate Saturday-only clinic in Metro Manila begins today at three venues--Chowking-Evacom in Sucat, Parañaque; Rizal Memorial Sports Complex (RMSC) in Vito Cruz, Manila and J & F Divino Bldg. at 967 Aurora Blvd. beside St. Joseph Church in Quezon City. For details, call the Metropolitan Chess Club and Checkmate Phils. at 826-8560 and 0916-852-1069.

Rallycross series goes to Clark

THE ULTRON National Rallycross Series goes to the parking lot of Expo Pilipino at the Clark Special Ecozone in Pampanga with its fifth leg tomorrow. All eyes will be on Kenneth Dominado, who is trying to preserve his lead against the likes of Ivan Isada of Team Ultron, Vip Isada of Team Blaze, Jun Diaz, Alex Perez, Robbie Hermoso, Carlo Gutang, Ramon Santiago, Dindo de Jesus, Art Guevara and Danny Santiago.

National under-19 football

ILOILO CITY—Fifteen teams will compete in the 2003 adidas National under-19 football championship which kicks off on Oct. 3 in two venues here—Santa Barbara and La Paz. Divided into four groups, the contenders are host Iloilo, Zamboanga, Masbate (Group A); National Oriental, Iligan, Rizal, Butuan (Group B); Cebu, Laguna, Cagayan de Oro, Legaspi-Albay (Group C); Dipolog, NCR, Negros Occidental and Cotabato City (Group D). The three teams in Group A will play at Santa Barbara, while the rest will show their wares at La Paz.Gov. Niel Tupaz, Santa Barbara Mayor Isabelo Maquino and Philippine Football Federation president Rene Z. Adad will grace the opening ceremony at 8 a.m.

NCR squad in Group of Death

THE NATIONAL Capital Region football squad for the Adidas U-19 Championships set in Iloilo next month drew Group D- the "Group of Death." NCR Football Association president Santi Elizalde said yesterday that the squad was drawn with Bacolod, Dipolog and Cotabato City. "The Metro Manila selection is leaving for Iloilo on Monday and will be headed by coach Gil Talavera, his assistant Arlan Rabino and key players Billy Corpuz, Nayeem Tahil, Karl Baquiran, Adam Altura, Richie Labial and Franco Borromeo. The team will be called the "NCR- Samsung U19 Team".

Presidential clay shooting tilt

WORLD-CLASS shooters, including Brunei Crown Prince Bolkiah, from 10 countries will vie in the Presidential Clay Shooting Championships in Vigan, Ilocos Sur's Baluarte Shooting Range from Sept. 30 to Oct. 4. Australia, New Zealand, Lebanon, Ireland, India, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei will compete with the Philippine team that will be sent to the South East Asian Games in Vietnam in December. Jethro Dionisio, silver medalist in the 2001 Kuala Lumpur SEA Games and bronze medalist in the 2002 Busan Asian Games for trap shooting, will lead the Philippine Team.

4-Stag derby set at Roligon

A CASH prize of P300,000 is up for grabs in Roligon Mega Cockpit's Battle of the Stags 4-Stag Derby tonight. Derby host DR Jovy, who will be assisted by pit manager Roming Vergara, said more than 60 fights are on tap. Entry fee is P5,500. Another 4-stag event blasts off on Sept. 30 with Boy Gamilla of Malabon as host. For details, call 833-2275 and 833-1638.

Cockfighting returns to Araneta

COCKFIGHTING resumes at the Araneta Coliseum this Monday and Wednesday as NCA top guns Rep. Rudy Albano, Pico Berin and Jun and Rudy Jingco present the NCA Stagwars 7-Stag Derby. Official entries must be submitted on Monday from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Participants are requested to call 911-3101 or 911-2928 for details.

E-KART TRAK
Enchanted Kingdom recently launched the E-Kart Trak—a 600-meter go-kart track at the Spaceport zone. Tourism Secretary Richard "Dick" Gordon (middle) opened the track with EK owner Mario Mamon and Laguna Gov. Ningning Lazaro.

BOWLING BETS
JOEY Puyat III (left), Coronado Lanes Inc. VP, presents to CJ Suarez and Jojo Canare travel papers for their trip to Honduras. The two will represent RP in the 39th Bowling World Cup set Sept. 27-Oct. 4.

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TANDUAY
THE NO. 1 RHUM

Beer na Beer tackles Skyflakes in CBL

'BEER na Beer and SkyFlakes clash for the solo leadership today in the semifinals of the Corporate Billiards League (CBL) at the Robinson's Galleria.

Both teams won their semis matches and the winner of this encounter, sponsored by Tanduay The No. 1 Rhum with the support of Rommel's Billiards, will be given better chances in the finals.

The match will be telecast over the National Broadcasting Network at 8-9 tonight.

Beer na Beer topped Ginebra Kapitan, 5-3 in the their semifinal outing, while Skyflakes turned back Accel, 5-4.

The top two teams after the single-round robin semifinals will battle each other in a best-of-seven for the crown and the P100,000 purse.

Ferrero, Paradorn, Moya struggl

NONTHABURI, Thailand—World No. 1 Juan Carlos Ferrero had to work hard Thursday to earn a spot in the quarterfinals of the US$550,000 Thailand Open, beating Alex Bogomolov Jr. of the United States, 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-1, in a match that ran just past midnight.

Ferrero faltered in the second set, blowing a 3-0 lead but recovering to go ahead 5-4. However, the main electricity at the Impact Arena in the Bangkok suburb of Nonthaburi then failed—apparently due to a thunderstorm outside—making the light too dim to play.

The lights were restored and play resumed in about 15 minutes, but the 23-year-old Spaniard seemed rattled, and played poorly to lose the set in a tie-break. He recovered his sterling form in the third set to take the victory.

Ferrero will face France's Gregory Carraz, who advanced by defeating Alexander Pppp of Germany, 7-5, 6-2.

Earlier, Ferrero's countryman, third seed Carlos Moya, also advanced by beating American Brian Vahaly, 7-5, 6-4.

Moya overcame a slow start before using his superior groundstrokes to defeat Vahaly.

"I got tired at the beginning but when I got more into rallies, I felt more confident," said Moya, world No. 6. "After I broke him back at the beginning, he didn't have the chance to break me throughout the match, which was good."

Moya will face fifth-seeded Jarkko Nieminen in the quarterfinals after the Finn earlier beat Bohdan Ulihrach of the Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-2.

Fourth seed Paradorn Srichaphan was pushed to the limit by Denmark's Kenneth Carlsen before advancing with a 6-3, 7-6 (5) victory.

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WORLD CUP

US, Russia post big wins; Sweden alive

NEW YORK—Mia Hamm barely missed a hat trick as the defending champion United States dispatched Nigeria 5-0, and Russia beat Ghana 3-0 Thursday in the Women's World Cup.

Sweden avoided elimination by beating Asian champion North Korea 1-0, and China faced Australia late Thursday.

Hamm was unstoppable for the second straight World Cup game, scoring two early goals, setting up another, and hitting the post in the second half.

She'd set up all three goals in a 3-1 victory over Sweden on Sunday, and virtually beat the African champion Nigerians solo as she increased her record career goal tally to 144.

Hamm converted a penalty kick in the sixth minute with a shot low to the right corner after Cindy Parlow was knocked down in the area by Nigerian captain Florence Omagbemi.

In the 12th, she sent a 35-yard free kick on a majestic arc and goalkeeper Precious Dede could only get her fingertips on it before the ball settled into the net.

The Americans took the lead in Group A with six points, but have not clinched a quarterfinal spot. They play North Korea on Sunday, needing only a tie to advance.

Nigeria, which lost to North Korea in its opener, was eliminated. Bunmi Kayode was taken off on a stretcher in the final moments, her head immobilized, after she collided with US player Abby Wambach. There was no immediate report on her condition.

Sweden couldn't afford a second loss in the Cup's toughest group after an opening 3-1 drubbing from the United States, and a seventh-minute goal by Victoria Svensson held up as Sweden withstood a late charge from North Korea.

"The match was a surviving match for us and we survived this one," said Sweden coach Marika Domanski Lyfors.

HYE Yong Jon of North Korea (left) and Victoria Svensson of Sweden go for a header.

Sweden scored on a clever chip pass from Malin Andersson to Svensson. Deep in the penalty area, Svensson volleyed home a shot with her right foot in the seventh minute.

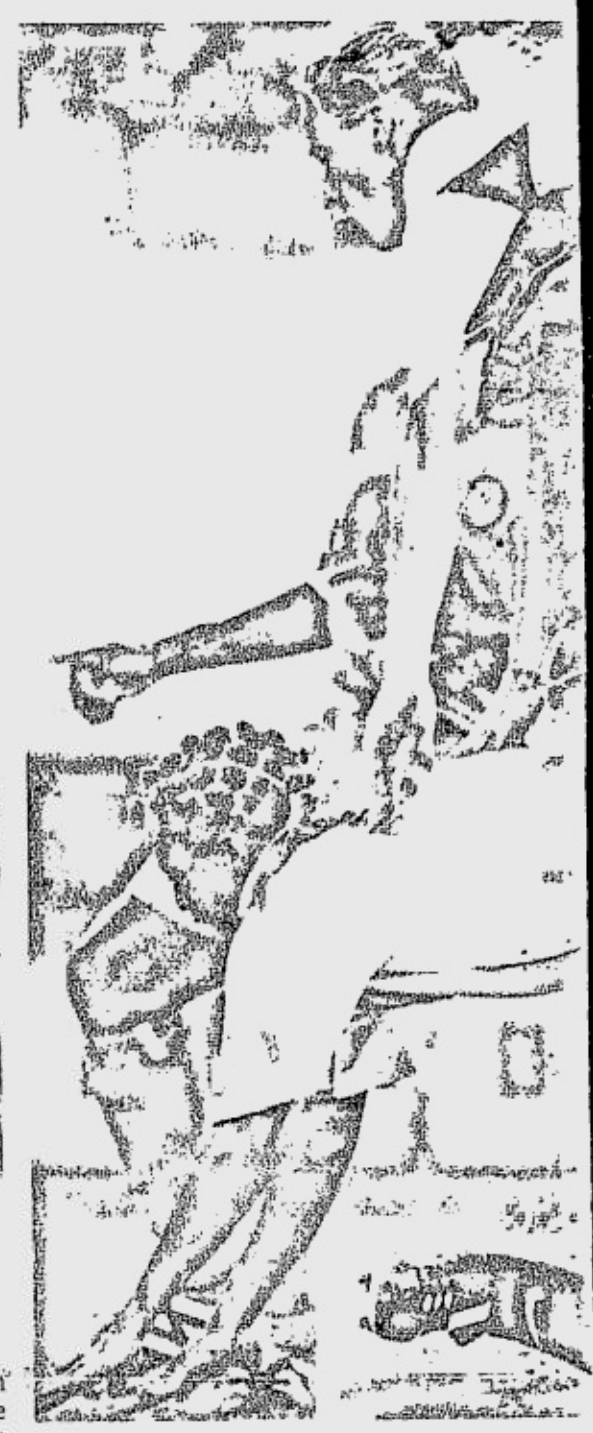
North Korea outscored opponents 60-3 in qualifying but Sweden was a huge step up in competition, and the Koreans had only one shot in the first half.

The Koreans had their best opportunity to tie in the 58th. Ri Kum Suk connected on a superb cross from O Kum Ran but hit the crossbar from 10 yards in the 58th, and Swedish star Hanna Ljungberg hit the left goalpost with a slow left-footed shot in the 76th.

The Koreans angrily complained about the officiating.

Marina Saenko got one goal and started another scoring play in Russia's 3-0 win over Ghana.

The Russians improved to 2-0 in Group D. They opened with a 2-1 victory over Australia and next face China, heavily favored to win the group. The top two teams advance. *AP*



UNITED States' Kristine Lilly, top, and Nigeria's Kik
World Cup game. The American women blanked the

7-birdie string

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—Bob Tway produced a stunning sequence of seven successive birdies to share the lead with Heath Slocum on nine-under-par 61 after the first round of the $3.5 million Texas Open on Thursday.

Tway and Slocum led by one shot from Australian Aaron Baddeley. Tom Byrum, Cameron Beckman, Cliff Kresge and South African Rory Sabbatini were tied for fourth place on 63.

Defending champion Loren Roberts was among a group of five players on six-

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Red-hot Delgado blasts 4 homers

TORONTO—Carlos Delgado became the 15th player in major league baseball history to record a four-homer game as the Toronto Blue Jays rallied for three runs in the eighth inning and posted a 10-8 victory in their final meeting of the season with Tampa Bay.

After giving Toronto the lead with his 300th career homer, a three-run blast in the first inning, Delgado added solo shots in the fourth and sixth.

With the Blue Jays trailing by a run in the eighth, Delgado greeted Tampa Bay closer Lance Carter with a towering shot over the luxury boxes in center field that knotted the game, 8-8.

Eric Hinske followed with a triple and Bobby Kielty lifted a sacrifice fly to left, giving Toronto the lead. Mike Bordick added insurance with a solo homer.

Delgado, who matched a career high with six RBI, became just the fifth American League player to hit four homers in a game but second in as many years.

Seattle's Mike Cameron also accomplished the feat on May 2, 2002. Delgado's six RBI moved him ahead of Colorado's Preston Wilson for the major league lead with 141.

Delgado's historic blast made a winner of Trever Miller (2-2), who walked a batter in 1 1/3 innings.

Carter (7-5) blew his seventh save opportunity of the season. *AFP*

AMERICAN LEAGUE

STANDINGS	W	L
y-New York	98	60
x-Boston	94	65
Toronto	84	75
Baltimore	70	88
Tampa Bay	61	98
Central Division		
y-Minnesota	89	70
Chicago	83	76
Kansas City	83	76
Cleveland	67	92
Detroit	41	118
West Division		
y-Oakland	96	63
Seattle	90	69
Anaheim	75	84
Texas	70	89
x-clinched wild card		
y-clinched division		

NATIONAL LEAGUE

x-Atlanta	99	60
Florida	89	70
Philadelphia	85	74
Montreal	81	78
New York	65	93
Central Division		
Chicago	86	73
Houston	86	73
St. Louis	83	76
Pittsburgh	74	85
Cincinnati	68	91
Milwaukee	66	93
West Division		
x-San Francisco	97	60
Los Angeles	84	74
Arizona	83	76
Colorado	72	87
San Diego	63	90
x-clinched division		

ARAMIS Ramirez of the Chicago Cubs slides safely into second base as Ray Olmedo of the Cincinnati Reds drops the ball for an error. AP

Marlins sink Phillies, clinch wild-card berth

MIAMI—Juan Encarnacion homered and drove in four runs as the Florida Marlins clinched a tie for the National League wild-card berth with an 8-4 victory over Philadelphia on Thursday that eliminated the Phillies from postseason contention.

Florida completed a three-game sweep and stretched its winning streak to four. The Marlins would clinch the playoff spot outright with either one win in their final three games or one loss by either Chicago and Houston, the NL Central co-leaders.

Brad Penny (14-10) allowed four runs and seven hits in eight innings for Florida, looking for its first playoff berth since it won the 1997 World Series.

"We're not ready to celebrate, said Marlins manager Jack McKeon, 72, who has never managed in the postseason.

Philadelphia led the wild-card race Saturday but has lost five straight. *AP*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

e to gain q'finals

n players held their games to Paradorn went on to dominate thanks to a flurry of errors by Dane took the second seesaw break, but finally fell to the favorite, who is world No. 11. s quarterfinal opponent Friday seeded Ivan Ljubicic of Croat- mphed 6-1, 6-4 over his coun- o Ancic.

r-old Ljubicic raced through the minutes, but had to work harder set as his 19-year-old opponent net and built up the pressure.

Ljubicic summoned his greater experience to beat his doubles partner, converting a break in the ninth game of the second set after a long deuce, before holding steady to win the match.

Ljubicic predicted great things for the lanky Ancic.

"He is only 19 years," Ljubicic said. "He is already a good player. It's just the matter of age, he will improve."

In other matches Thursday, eighth seed Taylor Dent of the United States scored a convincing victory over Thierry Ascione of France, 6-1, 6-2; and Nicolas Thomann of France beat Israel's Jonathan Erlich, 6-4, 6-0. *AP*

lomo Ajayi collide as the Nigerian goalie, bottom, makes a save during their Nigerians, 5-0. AP

g lifts co-leader Tway

. Tommy Armour III, Dan Fors- on Huston and Duffy Waldorf he same mark.

n, 29, without a win on the PGA r out in a five-under 30 and added birdies on the back nine at La- olf Club's Resort course to shoot round of his professional career.

4, who won the Canadian Open is season, went on his birdie seven in a row between holes 12. He also had birdies at the h and 18th but dropped a stroke at the par-four 15th.

Tway, the 1986 US PGA champion, said he was not aware how many birdies he had strung together. But he knew where he stood on the leaderboard and the opportunity to shoot 59 did enter his thoughts.

"I thought if I could birdie the par-three (13th), I have a par-five after that," Tway told reporters. "It didn't work that way.

Five players in PGA Tour history have recorded eight successive birdies, most recently JP Hayes at the 2002 Bob Hope Classic. *Reuters*

Justine, Clijsters headed for collision

LEIPZIG, Germany—Justine Henin-Hardenne and world No. 1 Kim Clijsters breezed into the quarterfinals of the Sparkassen Cup Thursday in their first matches since the US Open final two weeks ago.

Henin-Hardenne, who beat her Belgian rival in the final, dispatched Czech player Denisa Chladkova, 6-1, 6-2, in just 57 minutes, winning 11 straight games at one stretch.

"This is a good start. The first match indoors is not easy, especially after a big win. It's difficult to find your rhythm," said Henin-Hardenne.

Clijsters, the top seed, needed just 60 minutes to put away Jelena Dokic, 6-3, 6-4, as she chases her third title at the US$585,000 event after 2000 and 2001.

The two Belgians are in a heated race for the season-ending No. 1 ranking. Both are expected to reach Sunday's final at the US$585,000 event, with no other top players in the field.

If Henin-Hardenne wins, she could claim Clijsters' top ranking at the Filderstadt tournament starting Oct. 6.

Clijsters faces Switzerland's Patty Schnyder in her quarterfinal match Friday while Henin-Hardenne will meet Belgian compatriot Els Callens, who knocked off American Alexandra Stevenson, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2.

Nadia Petrova, the sixth-seeded Russian, came back from a set down to beat German hopeful Anna-Lena Groenefeld, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4. Petrova plays No. 3 seed Anatasia Myskina of Russia in the quarters.

JEROME Young is named by the International Olympic Committee as having failed a drug test before the 2000 Olympics and could lose the relay gold medal he won in the Games. REUTERS

Young drug case puts Olympic gold in peril

LAUSANNE, Switzerland—Three years later, the US victory in the men's 1,600-meter relay at the Sydney Olympics is in jeopardy of being wiped off the books.

With the US Olympic Committee confirming that Jerome Young tested positive for steroids in 1999, international officials have the ammunition to consider stripping the gold medal from Young and the rest of the relay team.

"We are totally committed to have the full truth be revealed," IOC president Jacques Rogge said Thursday. "We want this case to be solved as soon as possible."

The USOC provided Young's name to the International Olympic Committee executive board during a review of its drug-testing program from 1985-2000, a process aimed at dispelling long-standing suspicions of US doping cover-ups.

Young was named as one of 24 athletes who won Olympic medals during that period after previous positive doping tests.

"We want to dispel the notion that the USOC was involved in a conspiracy of silence or doping cover-up," USOC chief executive Jim Scherr said.

The IOC and the World Anti-Doping Agency have been investigating accusations—first reported last month by the Los Angeles Times—that Young tested positive for nandrolone in 1999 but was cleared on appeal by the US track and field federation.

Juvic pulls out; Gaston, T'pinco picked

WITH rising star Juvic Pagunsan withdrawing at the last minute to work on his travel papers for a scheduled trip abroad, focus shifts to an ageless warrior named Francis Gaston who takes on the young guns in the Samsung Amateur Tour and Putting Challenge starting today at the Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club course.

Gaston, who emerged as the surprise individual winner of the PAL Interclub in Davao early this year, looms as the favorite in the championship division, which includes national player Jay Bayron, JR Tanpinco and Ronnie Torrecampo.

Tanpinco is also expected to shine especially since he's been spending time at the host venue also known as Marapara even-though he plays for Canlubang in major tournaments like Torrecampo. Bayron, meanwhile, is out to make up for his disappointments in the first two legs, this time with a well-honed game he used in playing for the national Nomura Cup team.

Proof that Bacolod is home to a big number of low-handicappers is shown by the large number of entries in the championship and Class A categories, including Silay City Mayor Carlo Gamban.

Counting the players in Class B and Class C in the men's division and the Class A and Class B battles for ladies, the maximum 150-player limit has already been achieved as of Friday.

The organizing Professional Sports Management Group, headed by Boy Blue Ocampo of the PSMG, has brought to Bacolod a bonanza of prizes from Samsung including trophies and appliances for the top three finishers in each division and also raffle items.

"If the first three legs had been very competitive in the top divisions, it should even be tighter here because of the many entries in each class," said Ocampo.

SORENSTAM

Sorenstam, Wie topbill Oregon LPGA tourney

PORTLAND, Oregon—It has been a long year on the LPGA Tour, whether you're the best female golfer in the world or just a 13-year-old phenom.

Annika Sorenstam and Michelle Wie headline the field for this week's Safeway Classic, a 54-hole event that gets under way Friday at narrow Columbia Edgewater Country Club.

Sorenstam and Wie arguably are the two biggest names in women's golf, although their claims to fame are quite different.

The best female golfer in the world, Sorenstam is back to defend one of her 11 LPGA Tour titles from 2002. She set a tournament scoring record here last year, holding off Kate Golden by a stroke.

"Well, of course I'm happy to be back," the 32-year-old Swede said. "It's always nice to come back to a place where you have good memories." There are plenty of those for Sorenstam, who has a tour-high four victories this season. *AFP*

Close F1 overall race rules out staged finish in US Grand Prix

INDIANAPOLIS—A year ago, Michael Schumacher slowed on the final lap and let teammate Rubens Barrichello pass him to win the US Grand Prix. This year, there will be no similarly staged finish by Schumacher, not with just two races to go and his lead over Juan Pablo Montoya and Kimi Raikkonen precariously thin.

Practice and qualifying for Sunday's race, run under a new scoring format prompted in part by Schumacher's runaway Formula One championship last year, begin on Friday.

"I don't think what happened in the past relates to this year. It's a new start, and we have to see what we can do," Schumacher said Thursday. "We have a good car, a good package. We've worked very intense and feel we're very well prepared."

Early last season, when the championship was still being contested, Barrichello—under orders from the Ferrari team—let Schumacher pass him on the final straightaway to win the Austrian Grand Prix.

Schumacher went on to clinch a record-tying fifth F1 title after 11 of the season's 17 races—the earliest the series had ever been decided. He appeared headed for his second victory in three years at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway but allowed Barrichello to catch up as they approached the finish as a payback for the earlier favor.

Schumacher has won five races this season, including the last one two weeks ago in Italy, but a change in scoring—second through sixth place in each race receive two points more than in the past—has helped keep the title chase close.

"It's exciting. It's good," said Schumacher, who comes in with 82 points to Montoya's 79 and Raikkonen's 75. "We're strong. We won the last race and obviously believe in ourselves. The rest, you take it as it comes and you do your best.

"I don't think the rules in itself make the situation as tight as it is right now," he said. "It obviously created some excitement in certain areas, but at the end of the day, the reason why the competition is so tight is that simply the teams are much closer together than they have ever been."

Ferrari won 15 of the 17 races last year, 11 by Schumacher and four by Barrichello. This year, Montoya and Ralf Schumacher—Michael's younger brother—have each won two races and five other drivers have each won once.

The season will end with the Japanese Grand Prix on Oct. 12, and the championship likely will not be decided until then.

"There's a 3-point difference. If we can narrow the gap, that would be ideal," Montoya said. "We've got to fight to stay in contention with Michael and make sure Kimi doesn't get ahead of us either. It's going to be a quite interesting race, but I think we have a shot at a very good race here."

The winner will get 10 points, second place is worth 8, followed by 6-5-4-3-2-1.

Montoya, who won the IRL Indianapolis 500 in 2000 before joining the BMW Williams team, was 18th and fourth in his two previous F1 starts at Indy. Schumacher, starting from the pole all three years, won the 2000 US Grand Prix and was second the past two years.

Raikkonen was 22nd and 17th in his two starts at Indianapolis.

"The car was quite good here last year, but I haven't finished a race here," Raikkonen said. "We just need to do our own things and try to be quicker than those two guys."

Another change this year is in qualifying, where the first session on Friday will merely determine the order for Saturday's qualifying. Each car will have one lap Saturday—with the attempts made in the reverse order from Friday's fastest speeds—to determine the starting grid. *AP*

How Schumacher can win crown

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana—Michael Schumacher will be bidding for an unprecedented sixth Formula One world championship at the United States Grand Prix here on Sunday.

Here is how the three-time world champion Ferrari driver can wrap up proceedings without having to worry about the final race of the season in Japan on October 12.

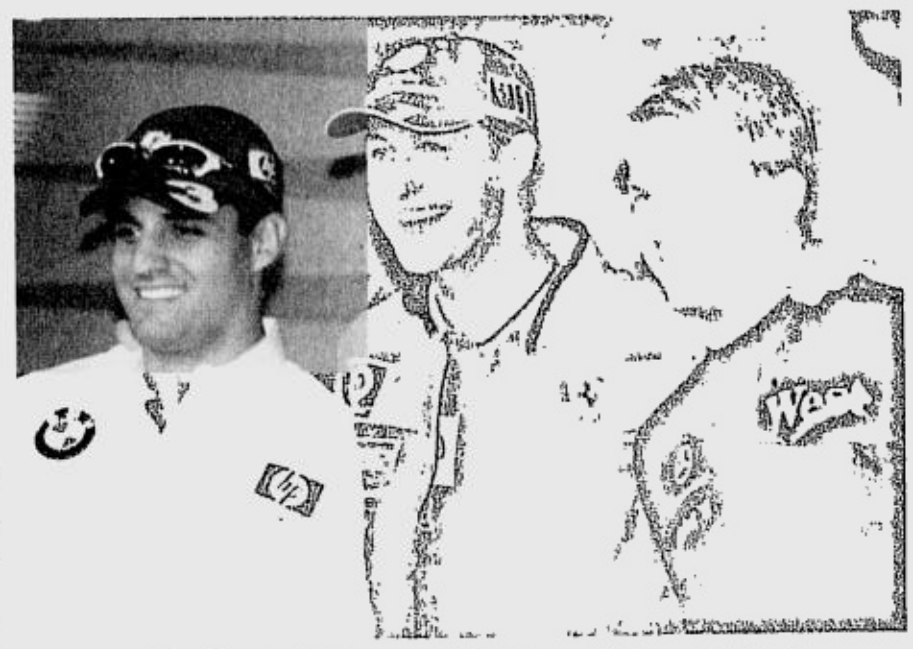
The German goes into Sunday's race on 82 points, with Williams Juan Pablo Montoya on 79 and Kimi Raikkonen, in a McLaren, on 75 points.

Schumacher will be world champion if:

—He wins and Raikkonen is third or lower, and Montoya is sixth or lower.

—He finishes second and Raikkonen is fourth or lower, and Montoya is eighth or lower.

—If he finishes third, the six points he would score would not be enough to stop Montoya from going to Suzuka, the final round, with a chance of winning. *AFP*



WILLIAMS driver Juan Pablo Montoya (left) of Colombia, Ferrari's Michael Schumacher of Germany and McLaren's Kimi Raikkonen of Finland share a laugh before a news conference at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. The US Grand Prix will be run on Sunday (Monday in Manila). REUTERS

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2 FREDDY VS. JASON 10:10, 12:05, 2:00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:40
3 THE MEDALLION 10:10, 12:05, 2:00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:40
4 PEOPLE I KNOW 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
5 INNER SENSES 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
6 BASIC 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
7 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

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2 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
5 BASIC
6 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
7 THE MEDALLION
8 1ST TIME

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1 THE MEDALLION
2 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
3 FREDDY VS. JASON
4 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
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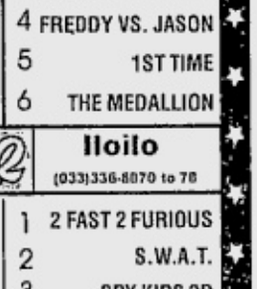

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Philracom predicts another record year

WITH three months left in the racing calendar, top officials of the Philippine Racing Commission (Philracom) have boldly predicted another record-setting year.

The glowing forecast came as the racing industry's overall sales figures for the first eight months of the year added up to more than P4.7 billion.

"Given the industry's vibrant growth through the first three quarters of the year, we are optimistic that local industry sales by the end of the year can easily reach P8 billion," according to Philracom chair Jaime Dilag, who recently marked his first year as chief of the racing industry's governing body.

Assisting Dilag are commissioners Eduardo Jose, Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., Vergel Cruz and Rogelio Tandiama.

Dilag pointed out that the single biggest beneficiary of the industry's impressive growth is the national government, which gets a sizeable share of the total horse racing revenues.

Through August this year, total government share in direct taxes alone amounted to more than P750 million. More than P1 billion in government revenue was contributed by the industry last year from sales of more than P6.7 billion.

To maintain its high level of public support and patronage, the Philracom has come up with a series of programs and policy initiatives to further level the playing field among the industry's direct participants and consequently elevate the integrity of the sport.

Foremost among these is the launching of a comprehensive urine drug test program for horses participating in all local races starting on Oct. 28. The drug test program for horses will be fully implemented starting in May 2004.

The Philippine Drug Testing Center Corp. has been accredited by the Philracom to implement the program in coordination with the two race clubs.

The Philracom has invited racing experts from Australia to conduct a series of hands-on seminars to improve the standard of race officiating by the race stewards and the handling of race horses by local trainers, stable hands and starting gate personnel.

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
Ali 2	1ST TIME
Ali 3	THE MEDALLION
Ali 4	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
Ali 5	FREDDY VS. JASON
Ali 6	BASIC
Ali 7	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE

ARANETA COLISEUM

SEPT 27	UAAP FINAL 4 GAME 2 (if necessary)
SEPT 28	PBA: FED EX VS. ALASKA
SEPT 29	NCA 7-STAG DERBY
OCT 1	NCA 7-STAG DERBY
OCT 2	UAAP FINALS GAME 1
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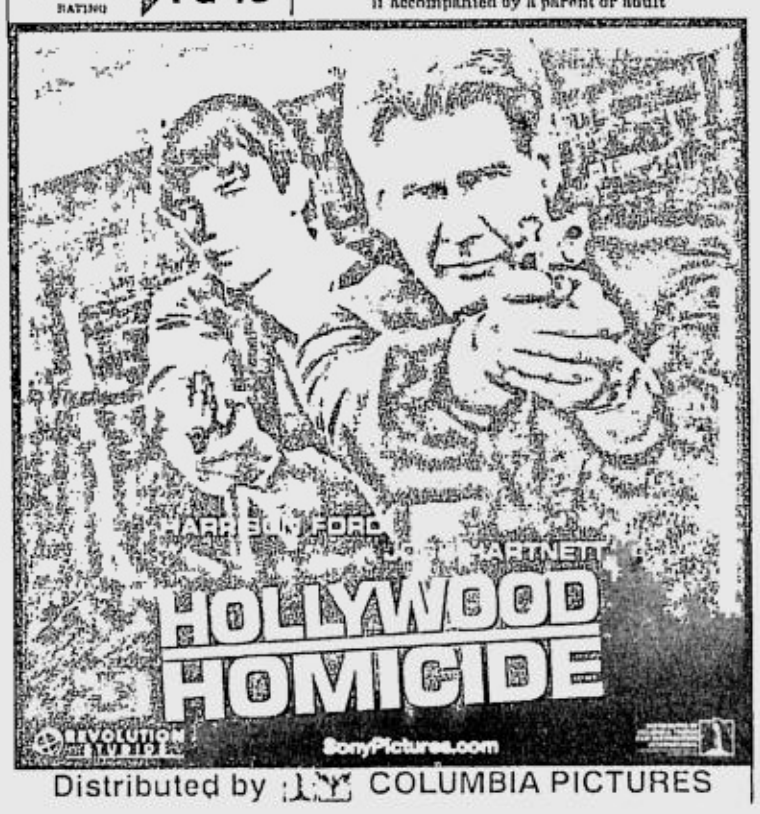

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADOFA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATA
CORONET A	LIGAYA KATUMBAS AY BUHA
CORONET B	A MAN APAR
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUT
REMAR	X-MEN
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
B	LIGAYA KATUMBAS AY BUHAY
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA!
CINEMA-2	LIGAYA KATUMBAS ANG BUHAY
CINEMA-3	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BASIC
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	FIRST TIME
CINEMA-6	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
CINEMA-7	KALABIT
CINEMA-8	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	JASON VS. FREDDY
CINEMA-12	MEDALLION
CINEMA-14	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
CINEMA 15	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

LORES

CINEMA 2	
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PIÑAS)	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
CINEMA-1	SWAT
CINEMA-2	MEDALLION
CINEMA-4	LEGALLY BLONDE

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SEIDA

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THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
DOLBY DIGITAL
CINEMA 1
ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
11:05, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
R18
CINEMA 2
KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:00
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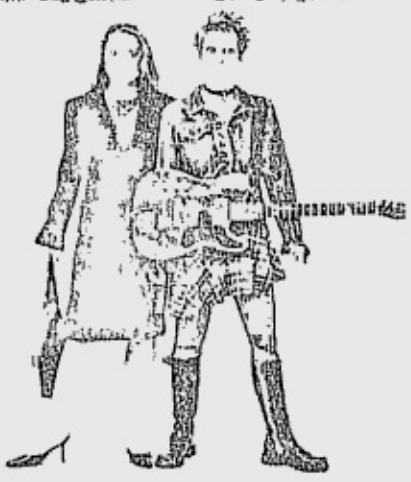
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SPORTS

Po denies he poked a gun

HORSEOWNER Alfredo "Freddie" Po has claimed there was no firearm in the first place. So how could he have poked a gun at jockey Dennis Camañero, Po asked, and threatened to kill him allegedly because the jockey failed to follow his order to lose a race last Aug. 8 at the Santa Ana Park?

Po said that when he met Camañero the day after the race, he only had a big cell phone—a Nokia 921i model—which policemen Romeo Buluran and Ernesto Bernardo later found after frisking him.

Po added that the police officers, who were jogging in the area and responded to the commotion caused by Camañero shouting he was going to be shot, have executed sworn affidavits attesting that they didn't find any gun that he had supposedly poked at the jockey.

A former Mapua cager, Po said he has been cleared of the accusation that he had ordered Camañero to lose aboard Top Quest, who ironically won the race.

"I even treated friends the night Top Quest won. That horse has not won in two years," said Po.

He visited his stable the next day and Po, said his trainer, Rogelio Catajan, remarked that Top Quest could have won by a larger margin had Camañero not applied the whip too much on Top Quest.

Po said that after he asked Camañero why he had to punish the horse unnecessarily, the jockey responded by cussing at him and adding: "*Nanalo na nga, umaangal pa kayo. Dapat nga balatuhan niyo pa ako* (The horse won and yet you complain. You should give me a bonus instead)."

Surprised by Camañero's hostile attitude, Po said he told the jockey to watch his language.

At that point, Po said, his cell phone rang.

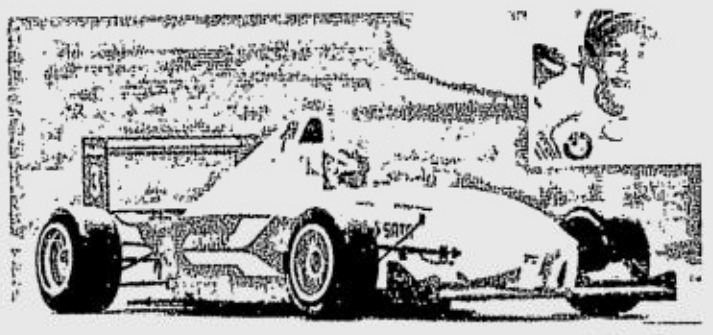
"I dug into my pocket to retrieve it, but then Camañero came running out of the stables, screaming '*Babarilin niya ako* (He's going to shoot me)'" said Po.

Ten minutes later, the two policemen arrived at the scene.

During the Philracom hearings, Po said the seven witnesses against him gave conflicting stories. He added one of his witnesses has been offered money to testify against him.

"All I want is to clear my name. In fact, I've been telling people that I'm quitting as a horseowner—and have already started selling my horses—when this controversy's over," he said.

He said he can't quit now "because that would mean I'm guilty. I'm going through with this to clear my name."



TYSON Sy (inset), the youngest Filipino Formula driver, and Dado Peña will vie in the Japan leg of the Formula BMW Asia tomorrow. Sy and Peña are currently in second and fifth place, respectively, in the FBMW rookie championship.

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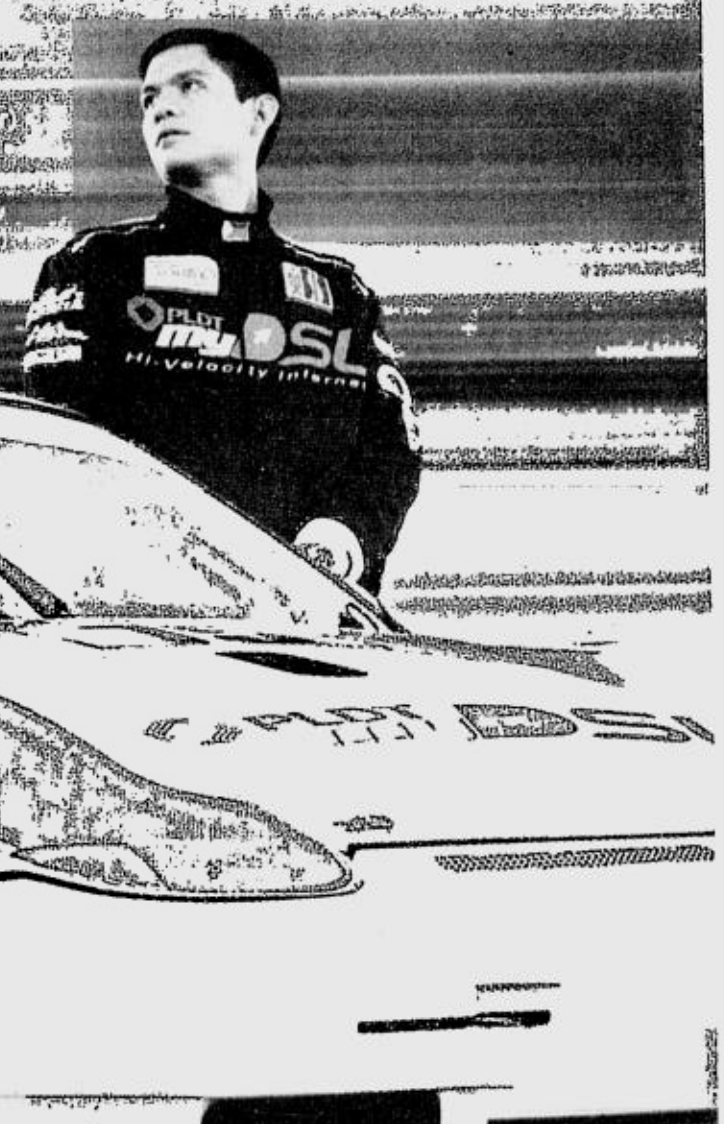

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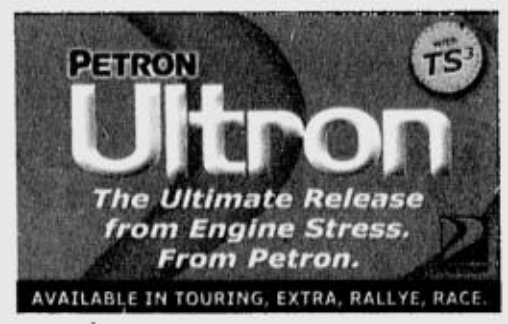

BIR starts reshuffling district officers

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue has started the second phase of its reorganization that involved the reshuffling this month of the heads of the 115 revenue district offices to further improve tax collection and weed out corruption in the agency.

The district offices are headed by Regional District Officers or RDOs. It is in this level of management that corruption is believed to be widespread. Several RDOs are the subject of the ongoing lifestyle checks being conducted by the finance department.

The BIR said it would execute a performance contract with the RDOs to ensure that collection goals in the remaining months would at least be achieved.

Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno said meeting the collection targets in the first eight months has not lulled the bureau into a false sense of security as it continued to reorganize its ranks to further strengthen tax administration and sustain the rising trend in collection.

Fifteen RDOs were re-assigned after the BIR used a set of criteria in moving the officers. The nationwide revamp is the second this year. In May, Parayno ordered a reshuffling that affected 13 senior officers.

Parayno said RDOs who have been consistently meeting and even exceeding their targets would be given a choice of staying in the district or moving into a bigger area.

To determine the RDOs performance, a rating system was devised that ranked the officers based on their collection performance (which accounts for 75 percent) and managerial skills (equivalent to 25 percent).

The BIR is striving to improve its public image and credibility after consistently being named in surveys as one of the most corrupt agencies in the country together with the Bureau of Customs. The poor collection of the two agencies swelled the budget deficit last year to P210.7 billion against a P130-billion ceiling.

Both collection agencies, however, have been posting remarkable improvements this year.

The issue of corruption is being addressed by the lifestyle checks intended to reform the two biggest revenue-generating agencies of the government.

The Department of Finance earlier said that of the 11,000 employees of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, at least 127 are facing sanctions and possible dismissal for involvement in irregularities including graft and corrupt practices.

The revenue leaks from the two agencies are estimated at more than P100 billion a year.

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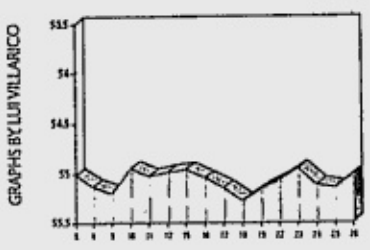

SEPTEMBER

STOCK MARKET

Stocks close flat

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

SEPTEMBER

(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCKS closed barely changed in light trade yesterday as players failed to find cues to push the market higher following a two-day fall on the Dow Jones and weaker regional markets.

Traders said the market would continue to consolidate next week with no fresh buying incentives, but a break of the 1,300 support in the main index could be a bearish signal.

The Philippine stock index edged down 0.34 point or 0.03 percent to end at 1,313.85 points. The market was hardly changed for the week—up 0.3 percent—leaving its year-to-date gains at 29.03 percent.

"The market is just consolidating. It was rising due to a rally in the Dow Jones. It was getting its direction from overseas markets because of the local uncertainties," said Joey Roxas, president of Eagle Equities Inc.

The Dow Jones has lost more than 300 points, or 3.1 percent, in the week to Thursday on economic news pointing to a weaker-than-expected US economic outlook.

The United States is the Philippines' biggest trading partner and most local corporations have been betting on a US economic rebound in the second half.

Turnover narrowed to P330.18 million from P606 million on Thursday. There were more unchanged issues, at 44, than losers and gainers combined.

Filinvest Land Inc. gained 3.7 percent or 4 centavos to P1.12 after it said it was considering tapping the offshore market for fresh funds for its operations and to pay off existing loans.

Top liquor firm Ginebra San Miguel Inc. was unchanged at P30 while rival Tanduay Holdings Inc. was untraded from its Aug. 27 close of P3.

Reuters

Spurring housing demand seen to boost bank lending

By Elena R. Torrijos

DUBAI, UAE—The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas sees bank lending improving by as much as 10 percent if legislation to spur housing demand is enacted.

"The only hope we have to increase activity for borrowing is the housing sector. The problem there is the absence of end-user finance that is fixed rate," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura, who was here for the annual meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, said in an interview Wednesday.

Pending bills for the removal of documentary stamp taxes on secondary trading of securities and securitization of assets would create a more conducive environment for housing finance, Buenaventura pointed out.

If put in place, the two legislative reforms would encourage banks to lend long-term at fixed rates because it would make it easier for them to securitize mortgages and sell the asset-backed securities in the capital market.

Buenaventura said he hoped the legislation could be signed into law before the end of the year though their effects would take time, and would probably be seen only when the next administration takes over.

At present, bank lending has been increasing at only 2-3 percent as the sectors that have been growing, primarily those in services, have been self-financing while manufacturing, traditionally the driver for bank lending, has stayed away from borrowing given the continued excess capacity in various industries.

Buenaventura noted that unlocking the potential of housing finance would have a tremendous positive impact on the country's economic growth given the high multiplier effect of the sector.

He said there was a huge backlog for middle-income housing finance that was not being tapped because, while housing loan rates remained near historical lows, the floating rate character of the loans turned off borrowers who were seeking the security offered by fixed rates.

Gov't generates ₱7-B savings from low interest rates

MODEST interest rates in the first eight months of the year gave the government savings of P7 billion in debt servicing, a level that exceeded the P4-billion goal for the year, according to the Bureau of Treasury.

This year, the government has set aside P230.7 billion for interest payments but it was banking on favorable domestic rates to 'bring the level down in the same way it did last year when a substantial decline in local rates reduced debt servicing by P18.5 billion.

A better grip on the fiscal sector allowed the government to contain the budget deficit at P113.56 billion from January to August against a ceiling of P127 billion.

Foreign bank HSBC, based on its September review, believed that the Macapagal administration would keep the fiscal deficit for the full year at P10 billion below the P202-billion target.

Despite this, HSBC warned that "politics will increasingly dominate the radar screen in the Philippines, with all parties involved jockeying and politicking in the run-up to the May

GOV'T/ B2

PEP finalizes plan on P6.58-B bid to take over Nextmobile

By Doris C. Dumlao

ENTERTAINMENT outfit Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc. has mapped out a quasi-reorganization blueprint to finalize its P6.58-billion takeover of 97 percent of wireless service provider Nextmobile Inc.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, PEP president Anastacio Diaz said the company would issue 13.16 million new shares and raise its authorized capital stock to P7 billion for the acquisition.

The transaction will allow PEP to acquire shares from NextMobile's existing shareholders representing collective investments equivalent to 97 percent of the company.

NextMobile, which is owned and controlled by businessman Mel Velarde, operates the Nextel radio-phone network, which is likewise taking over a 70-percent stake in cash-strapped telecommunications firm Capitol Wireless Inc.

The PEP board, Diaz noted, has likewise approved the reduction in the par value of the company's stocks from P1 to 50 centavos which would initially result in the reduction of its authorized capital from P1 billion consisting of one billion shares at P1 par value per share to P500 million consisting of one billion shares at a par value of 50 centavos.

As a consequence, the paid-up capital would be slashed to P260 million from P520 million.

However, PEP will again raise its authorized capital stock to P7 billion consisting of 14 billion shares at a par value of 50-centavos per share to accommodate the shares to be issued.

The capital restructuring will be presented to PEP's stockholders during their next meeting on Oct. 24.

Premiere and Nextmobile signed a memorandum of understanding to conduct a formal due-diligence audit last July. The deal will pave the way for the back-door listing of Nextmobile on the local bourse.

Gov't debt yields flat despite excess funds

DEBT yields were flat yesterday as traders searched in vain for fresh news to inspire the market, which remains flooded in funds after around P11 billion in paper matured earlier this week.

Traders said there were few significant transactions and that they expect yields to remain steady at an auction on Monday.

A trader said four-year paper was dealt at 9.74 percent, barely changed from its previous level.

"There are trades but they are not indicative of market direction," the trader said.

"I think at this point, market momentum is slowing down. So I don't expect anything dramatic at the treasury bills auction. Probably, 10 basis points up or below from the previous auction."

The Bureau of Treasury on Sept. 29 will sell P4 billion of benchmark 91-day treasury bills; P3 billion of 182-day papers, and P2.5 billion of 364-day bills.

At the previous auction on Sept. 15, the 91-day bill fetched an average yield of 5.325 percent. The 182-day got 6.511 percent while the 364-day paper fetched 7.098 percent.

The average call loan rate in the interbank market late on Thursday remained unchanged at 6.81 percent. Volume rose to P1.46 billion from P330 million previously. There were three lenders and three borrowers. *Reuters*

Ayala Land's Licuanan set to retire next year

AYALA Land Inc., the Philippines' biggest property developer, confirmed yesterday that its president, Francisco Licuanan, will retire from the company next year.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), Ayala Land said Jaime Ayala, who heads the domestic operations of the consultancy firm McKinsey, will join the firm in January as executive vice president and would replace Licuanan by mid-2004.

A company source had told Reuters on Thursday that Licuanan, 59, would be retiring voluntarily as president in the first quarter of 2004, leaving a post he has kept for 15 years since the property firm was established.

Ayala Land is a unit of Ayala Corp., the country's largest conglomerate with interests in banking, telecommunications, automobiles and water distribution. The group is controlled by the Spanish-Filipino Zobel family.

Licuanan is widely credited for his astute understanding of the real estate industry, enabling Ayala Land to maintain its market dominance despite the crippling Asian financial crisis in 1997-98 that levelled other property developers.

Ayala Land's key project in the capital is Bonifacio Global City, a sprawling 150-hectare development previously controlled by Metro Pacific Corp., the Philippine flagship of Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd.

PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
Almeda Building, Roxas Boulevard
Corner San Luis St., Pasay City
Tel. Nos. 551-9587 / 891-6444
www.peza.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (THE OWNER) invites all interested bidders to Apply for Eligibility and if found to be Eligible, to bid for the Security Services requirement of PEZA.
2. Approved Budget: P20,590,200.00
3. Eligibility Documents may be secured upon presentation of BAC Certificate of Registration and payment of a non-refundable fee of TWO HUNDRED PESOS (P200.00) from the BAC Secretariat 3/F Almeda Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City from 22 September to 03 October 2003, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Mondays to Fridays only. Eligibility Documents must be submitted to the BAC Secretariat not later than 3:00 pm of 17 October 2003. All applicants will be informed in writing of their Eligibility or Ineligibility.
4. Time and date of the Pre-Bid Conference and the Deadline for the Submission and Opening of Bids will be indicated in the Instructions to Bidders / Bid Documents that will be available only to Eligible Bidders.
5. PEZA reserves the right to reject any application or bids or any part thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the Applicant and/or Bidder may incur in the preparation of Eligibility Documents and of the Bids, and will entertain only such Bid/s established to be the most advantageous to the Government.

THE CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–September 20 & 27, 2003)

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES SYSTEM
Diliman, Quezon City
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

A. The University of the Philippines Diliman hereby invites all interested parties to pre-qualify for its bidding for:

1 lot COMPUTER SYSTEMS, etc.

B. The following eligibility requirements in two copies, duly certified must be submitted to the Supply and Property Management Office (SPMO) at Instructional Materials Corp Building (National Book Devt. Board), A. Regidor Street fronting the PAG-ASA Astronomical Observatory, U.P. Campus, Diliman, Quezon City, to form the basis for evaluation and assessment for pre-qualification of bidders:

1. SEC/DTI/Cooperative Development Registration Papers
2. 2003 Business License/Permit
3. Income Tax Return for the last two (2) years (2001 & 2002) marked "received" by the BIR with the accompanying Audited Financial Statements
4. Company Profile
5. List of clients and references, and supporting documents
6. List of company equipment and other assets
7. Duly notarized statement of the duly authorized representative of the company that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, offices or corporations

DETAILED SPECIFICATIONS WILL BE LISTED IN THE BIDDING DOCUMENTS.

The above-mentioned requirements must be completely submitted in two (2) separate folders with *Table of Contents* and *properly tabbed* Otherwise, the same will not be accepted by the SPMO

C. Deadline for submission of pre-qualification documents October 3, 2003

D. Pre-bidding and bidding schedule shall be announced to all eligible bidders

E. The University of the Philippines reserves the right to review the qualifications of a selected bidder, subject to technical, financial and production criteria, reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect therein and accept the offer considered most advantageous to the University

F. For further particulars, please inquire from Mr. Pedro E. Fajardo, Chief, SPMO, anytime during office hours at the above-mentioned address or call tel. no. 920-5374 (direct) and 920-5301 local 4331, 4230 and 4911

(Sgd.) EMERLINDA R. ROMAN
Chancellor

(PDI - Sept. 27 & 29, 2003)

Tanduay-GSM gin war seen to reach high court

By Michelle V. Remo

TANDUAY Distillers Inc. said it would contest the temporary restraining order issued against the production and sale of its gin product Ginebra Kapitan, adding it was prepared to face a higher level of legal battle to get rid of the TRO.

According to Eduardo Escaño, Tanduay's legal counsel, the company has yet to decide what move to take after the issuance of the TRO, but that bringing the case to the Court of Appeals and to the Supreme Court was a major option.

"The way things are going, it looks like this case will reach the Supreme Court because either party wants to fight it out," said Escaño, stressing that the injunction on the manufacture and marketing of Ginebra Kapitan was favoring "monopoly" of the gin market.

Tanduay chief operating officer Wilson Young said in a press conference that the firm has applied with the Intellectual Property Office the name "Ginebra Kapitan" to be registered to Tanduay, but that a decision on its application has yet to be issued.

"IPO's decision is independent from that of the court, but should the IPO approve the registration (of the term 'Ginebra Kapitan'), we will use it as support to our case," said Escaño.

Young said that should the courts decide to make the TRO permanent, Tanduay's financial position would be badly affected. He said Tanduay invested at least P10 million for the production of Ginebra Kapitan, which was introduced in the market in May.

Young added that the company might also be forced to lay off workers should the TRO be made permanent. He said Tanduay employed an additional 300 employees for the production and promotion of Ginebra Kapitan alone.

The Mandaluyong City Regional Trial Court issued a TRO on the production and sale of Ginebra Kapitan last Tuesday following a complaint filed by its rival Ginebra San Miguel Inc.

GSM, the hard liquor unit of San Miguel Corp., complained against Tanduay's use of the term "Ginebra," saying it was misleading the public and claiming that the term has already been an identity of GSM and should therefore not be used by Tanduay.

"The confusion is that their products are believed by the market to be variants of Ginebra San Miguel or are products of the company," Gilbert Reyes, senior partner of GSM's legal counsel Poblador, Bautista and Reyes Law offices, was quoted as saying.

On the other hand, Tanduay contested that the word "Ginebra" was a generic term and could not be owned by GSM alone.

"Other companies have also used the term 'Ginebra,' so why are they singling out Ginebra Kapitana," said Young.

Gov't generates . . .

From page B1

elections next year."

The preoccupation with politics would tend to undermine the country's achievements in the fiscal sector and in keeping inflation low, HSBC added in its monthly review called "The View."

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said that despite political uncertainties that could have pushed domestic interest rates up, the cost of government borrowing from the local market remained reasonable.

He said preserving interest rates at current levels would allow the government to realize additional savings in the remaining months of 2003 although he pointed out that last year's decline in debt servicing was hard to beat.

Savings from interest payments are often used to offset increases in spending especially as expenditures exceeded the target by more than P9 billion in August due to aggressive payment of contractual obligations.

Domestic interest rates were volatile in the first quarter due to external and onshore concerns like the US-Iraq war, a weak peso and the imposition of the 10-percent value-added tax on financial services.

By the second quarter, however, rates started to soften until banks started asking for a higher rate on their placements in treasury bills following the July 27 failed mutiny and unending political concerns. *Clarissa S. Batino*

INTEREST RATES

September 26, 2003- MART1 Rates	Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 26-Sep-03	MART1 25-Sep-03
	1 Month	6.2429	6.2875
	3 Months	6.2339	6.2786
	6 Months	7.0982	7.1589
	1 Year	8.1143	8.1321
	2 Years	9.1473	9.1408
	3 Years	9.7232	9.6679
	4 Years	10.1658	10.1652
	5 Years	10.5183	10.5583
	7 Years	11.19	11.19
	10 Years	11.5804	11.5875
	20 Years	12.0408	12.0333
	25 Years	12.33	12.3067

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Sept. 26, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.2	80,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	18	17.5	17.5	298,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43.5	43.5	43.5	43.5	147,500
China Banking Corp.	670	670	670	670	50
Citystate Savings Bank	15	15	15	15	2,500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33	33.5	33	33	69,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29	29.5	29	29	3,169,600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	12.75	12.75	20,000
Security Bank Corp.	18.75	19	18.75	19	113,900
Union Bank of the Phil.	29	29	29	29	1,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	22,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1700	1700	1700	1700	860
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1215	1215	1210	1210	730
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Abs-Cbn Broadcasting Corp.	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	11,500
Diversified Fin. Network	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.69	0.69	0.68	0.68	990,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	690	695	690	695	9,090
Ipeople Inc.	0.98	1.06	0.98	1.06	550,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.049	0.049	800,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.74	0.75	0.73	0.75	8,330,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	660	665	660	665	14,930
Ivantage Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	120,000
Philweb Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	57,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	16.25	16.25	15.5	15.5	295,800
Manila Electric Co. B	24.25	24.25	23.5	23.5	947,200
Petron Corp.	2	2.02	2	2	1,263,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	28,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	71,000
William,Gothong & Aboitiz	2	2	2	2	5,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	140,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	1,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	130,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.64	1.64	262,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	780,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	7,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30	29.5	30	228,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	18	18	17.5	17.5	2,739,300
RFM Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	50,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.25	0.25	1,020,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54	54.5	54	54.5	67,100
San Miguel Corp. B	62.5	63	62.5	63	19,800
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.85	4.9	4.85	4.9	727,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	105,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	2,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.68	0.7	0.67	0.67	17,550,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	50,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	500,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.3	510,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	51,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	255,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.105	0.11	0.105	0.11	210,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
Ionics Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.7	1.7	502,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2	2.02	2	2.02	860,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.96	0.96	0.94	0.94	1,250,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	17,700,000
Music Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	370,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.13	0.14	0.13	0.14	160,000
Solid Group Inc	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	300,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.57	720,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	50,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc	0.37	0.37	0.34	0.34	1,610,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	23.25	23.25	23	23	72,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0016	0.0016	0.0014	0.0014	71,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.7	6,129,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	1,000,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.08	1.14	1.08	1.12	18,459,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	780,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	400,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.0775	0.0775	0.0775	0.0775	700,000
SM Development Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	36,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.3	716,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	2,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	5,350,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	470,000
Omico Corp.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	5,000,000
OIL					
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000

DISCLOSURES

CADP Group Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on November 19 with record date on October 15.

***

JARDINE Davies Inc. declared a cash dividend of P1.90 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of October 10 and will be payable on October 21.

***

AYALA Land Inc. confirmed Jaime Ayala, who is the present managing director of McKinsey and Co.'s Manila unit and not related to the Zobel de Ayala family, will join the company on January 2004 as executive vice president and then succeed current president of the company, Francisco Licuanan III, who will retire next year.

***

SAN Miguel Corp. declared a cash dividend of P0.35 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of Oct. 17 and will be payable on Nov. 10.

***

ELECTED directors of East Asia Power Resources Corp. were Arun Banskota, Kurt Lindahl, Anthony Shibley, Augusto Villa-Real, Walden Tantuico, Haide Concepcion, Jaime Robles Jr., Jose Ramon Revilla and Jose Feria Jr.

***

AGP Industrial Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 13, 4 p.m. at the Mondragon House, Makati City.

***

PRIME Gaming Philippines Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Oct. 30, 11 a.m. at the Acacia Function Room of Manila Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Oct. 6 will be entitled to vote at the meeting.

***

ELECTED directors of Vivant Corp. were Edgar John Garcia, Elbert Zosa, Efren Sarmiento, Dominic Martin Garcia, Dennis Garcia, Ramontito Garcia, Antonio Garcia de Escano, Raul Rabe and Edgardo Bautista. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

September 26, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.869641	1.000000	55.140000
Japan	Yen	0.007762	0.008926	0.492200
United Kingdom	Pound	1.444734	1.661300	91.604100
Hongkong	Dollar	0.112118	0.128924	7.108900
Switzerland	Franc	0.647633	0.744713	41.063500
Canada	Dollar	0.644800	0.741455	40.883800
Singapore	Dollar	0.501523	0.576701	31.799300
Australia	Dollar	0.590990	0.679579	37.472000
Bahrain	Dinar'	2.306801	2.652590	146.263800
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.231898	0.266660	14.703600
Brunei	Dollar	0.500081	0.575043	31.707900
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021714	0.024969	1.376800
UAE	Dirham	0.236785	0.272279	15.013500
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.149900	63.405500
Argentina	Peso	0.300914	0.346021	19.079600
Brazil	REAL	0.297211	0.341763	18.844800
Denmark	Kroner	0.134620	0.154799	8.535600
India	Rupee	0.018967	0.021810	1.202600
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.228883	0.263193	14.512500
Mexico	New Peso	0.079967	0.091954	5.070300
New Zealand	Dollar	0.516138	0.593507	32.726000
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015124	0.017391	0.958900
South Africa	Rand	0.123177	0.141641	7.810100
Korea	Won	0.000756	0.000869	0.047900
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025867	0.029744	1.640100

People, Events & Products

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

DLSU Medical Center upgrades to ISO 9001:2000 version

DE LA Salle University Medical Center in Dasmariñas, Cavite successfully passed another ISO 9001 certification audit last July 23 to 25. The scope of the audit covered administrative and medical services that include design and development of clinical pathways, which is again the first among hospitals in the Philippines.

"So after we have given you the audit findings and observations, we have decided to recommend De La Salle University Medical Center for ISO 9001 certification," announced Eric Santos, lead auditor, TUV Rheinland Philippines Ltd. during the wrap-up and closing meeting of the three-day certification audit. TUV Rheinland Philippines Ltd., the certifying body, is a branch of TUV Rheinland Berlin Brandenburg, an ISO certifying body based in Germany.

ISO which stands for International Organization for Standardization was established in 1946 in Geneva Switzerland. It is a global federation of national standard bodies with 130 members and 11,000 sets of standards.

Dr. Antonio Montalban, executive vice president of DLSU-Health Sciences Campus, said that when you venture into something, it is very critical to win everybody's support. The same is the case with ISO, the management has to win everybody's cooperation.

De La Salle University Medical Center is a 200-bed capacity tertiary hospital. It is the teaching-training hospital of De La Salle University Health Sciences Campus to which the hospital belongs. Forming part of the DLSU-Health Sciences Campus are the following: DLSU College of Medicine, DLSU-College of Physical Therapy, DLSU-College of Nursing and Midwifery, DLSU-College of Medical Radiation Technology, and DLSU-Angelo King Medical Research Center. The DLSU-Health Sciences Campus is one of the schools under the DLSU System with Dr. Carmelita Quebengco as the interim president.

According to Sr. Marie Antoine Villanueva, SPC, AFSC, vice president for adminstrative services, full management commitment is vital to the success of the Quality Management System as well as the full cooperation and support of all the staff who really labored to achieve this milestone in the journey of the hospital.

The ISO 9000:2000 is the upgraded version of the ISO 9001:1994. The ISO 9001:1994 version has 20 elements which require that we document our processes while the ISO 9000:2000 has five major clauses which require proof that we meet customer requirements and that we have documented proof that validate this.

De La Salle University Medical Center achieved the same feat when in September 1994 it was awarded ISO 9001:1994 certification becoming the first hospital in the country to pass the rigid requirements of ISO.

The TUV Rheinland audit team is composed of Eric Santos, lead auditor; Ligaya Casantosan, auditor; and Ronnie Fernandez, auditor.

The other members of the top management of DLSU-Health Sciences Campus are: Jose Cueto, JR, MD, MPHEd, FPCS, vice president for medical services; Romeo Arniego, MD, FPCP, FPCC, vice president for academic services; Melchor Victor Frias, MD, MsC, FPPS, vice president for research services; Roberto Espos Jr., MD, MHSA, FPPS, medical director; Sr. Estelle Camagan, SPC, hospital administrator, and Eleoner So, CPA, controller.

The Quality Management System in DLSU Medical Center is handled by the Toral Quality Management Department led by Edgar Edralin, director and concurrent Quality Management Representative and 45 Internal Quality Auditors.

NESTLÉ CABUYAO LIVELIHOOD TRAINING PROGRAM

A livelihood training program of the Nestlé Cabuyao factory, dubbed 'Ang Misis Kong Trainor', is now on its second year. Recently, seven ladies, an employee and six spouses of Cabuyao employees, joined forces to train nearly 250 spouses, children and community residents. The seven have been among the most active participants in previous livelihood programs. They underwent Trainor's Training at the Dualtech Training Center after passing the entreprenurial and training aptitude test given by the Technical Educational Skills and Development Authority (Tesda). The livelihood workshops they teach include basic baking, meat processing, body massage, dress making and culinary workshops.

TOUCH MOBILE PARTNERS WITH DUNKIN' DONUTS

In line with its thrust of continuously providing families with value-added services and treats, Touch Mobile has entered into a partnership with Golden Donuts Inc., which entitles buyers of Touch Mobile SIM packs, now only P140, to a free six-piece Dunkin' Donuts family treat until Sept. 16. Buyers may choose six of their favorite Dunkin' Donuts from an array of regular variety donuts at any participating Dunkin' Donuts outlet nationwide. Signing the partnership contract are, from left: engineer Ernesto Co, vice president and general manager of Golden Donuts Inc.; Ana de Villa-Singson, Globe Telecom's vice president for Touch Mobile; Cora Lugtu and Neil Gordon, group product manager and product manager, respectively, of Golden Donuts Inc.

Lobo marks 132nd founding day

THE town of Lobo in Batangas province will mark its 132nd Foundation Day with a week-long festivity from Sept. 22 to 29. With the theme "Public Trust and Good Governance: Key to Progress, and Sustainable Development," activities include an Alay Lakad, a mass wedding, tree-planting, and a quiz bee, poetry, oration and declamation contest for students, a battle of the bands, the search for Mr. and Ms. Eco-Tourism, the Ms. Philippines Island Tour beauty pageant, and a benefit merienda for the Parish church. The celebration concludes with a fluvial procession on Sept. 29 in honor of St. Michael The Archangel, the town's patron saint. This will be followed by a 'bancaton' or regatta in the town's municipal waters with local fishermen taking part. For more information, call engineer Sonny Adoyo, chair of the 132nd Foundation Day organizing committee at 043-1981577 or 0920-9065421.

Citibank's grocery promo

Clips

DOUBLE your rewards points for every grocery purchase of atP1,200 at participating supermarkets with Citibank credit cards' latest promotion. Rush now to Rustan's, Robinsons Big R, SM and shopwise supermarkets nationwide. And now, Landmark has just been added to the list of participating supermarkets - giving you more choices where you can do your grocery shopping and make the most of Citibank's Rewards program. Promotion runs only until Sept. 28. The Rewards program is a special feature of Citibank Visa and MasterCard. Under the program, cardholders earn 1 reward point for every P30 spent using their cards. For more information, call the 24-hour CitiPhone at 995-9999.

When I grow up, I want to be Snoopy!

WHAT do you want to be when you grow up? I'm sure you've always asked this question. And what do you answer? Let me guess. Maybe become an attorney, just like Daddy. Or be an astronaut, like how they call those who walk on the moon. A submarine captain would also be cool. Or be a scarecrow. We have that in the farm. That would be fun.

My parents, I surprised them when I told them I wanted to be Snoopy!

I'll share with you how fantastic Snoopy is, and why he has become a favorite for many. I'm sure you would like him too!

It was Charles M. Schulz in his comic strip "Peanuts" who created Snoopy, a demonstrative and enthusiastic beagle who thought of everything great about himself every time-at least in his daydreams atop his doghouse. Snoopy never spoke though, but he told you everything in facial expressions and thought balloons.

When I said I wanted to be Snoopy, I meant I wanted to be as intelligent and imaginative as he was.

I'm sure it would interest you to know he has been everything I said at the beginning: an attorney, an astronaut, a submarine captain, even a scarecrow. Not only those, he also has been a Skateboarding Joe Cool, a Great Chef, a Flying Ace and a Beagle Scout. He has been all these in McDonald's Happy Meals.

Wow! How accomplished! When I see him, I also feel like I can do everything all at the same time. Isn't it great to be Snoopy?

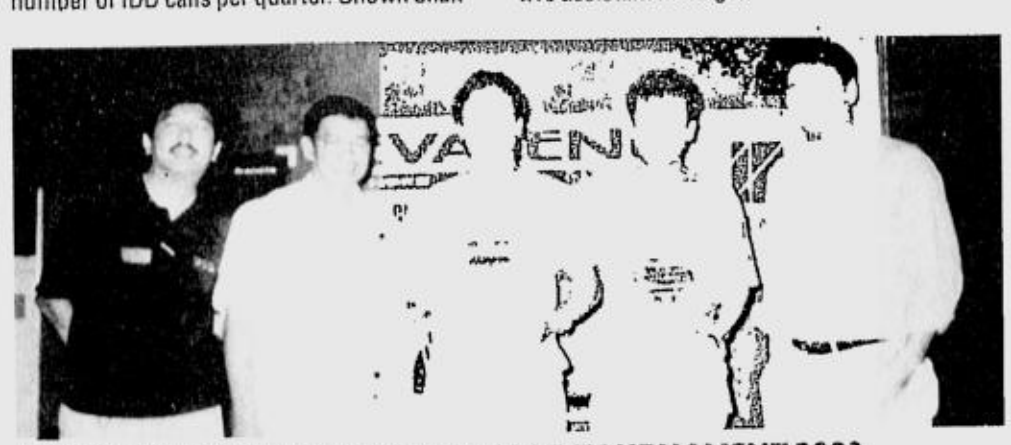
So go ahead. I'll race you to McDonald's. Go!

PCA APPOINTS L.A. DUCUT AS ITS EXHIBIT MANAGER

The Philippine Constructors Association Inc. (PCA), the oldest trade organization in the country and the organizer of the country's most comprehensive international construction trade show, Philconstruct, has appointed L.A. Ducut and Company Inc. as its new exhibit manager for this year's Philconstruct set on Nov. 13 to 16 at the World Trade Center. Formalizing their agreement are (seated from left) engineer Sammy Lazo, PCA past 1st vice president and Philconstruct 2003 co-chair; Lilibeth Abais, managing director of L.A. Ducut and Co. Inc.; PCA president engineer Emilio Tumbocon and engineer Jorge Consunji, PCA 1st vice president and Philconstruct chair. Witnessing the signing are (standing left) L.A. Ducut and Co. Inc. project sales officer Joanne de las alas and PCA executive director Manolito Madrasto. Interested parties may contact L.A. Ducut and Co. Inc. for details at telefax 873-8202 or 1198 or email at philconstruct@laducut.com.

GLOBELINES, MANDARIN IN REWARDS CONTRACT

Globelines, the wireline telephone service of Globe Telecom, has entered into a three-year reward system contract with Mandarin Oriental Manila. Under the deal, Globelines will extend millions of pesos worth of amenities to Mandarin in exchange for the delivery of a certain number of IDD calls per quarter. Shown shaking hands are Gil Genio, Globe wireline business group head (left) and Helmut Gaisberger, Mandarin general manager. Flanking them are (from left): Ramon Pineda, Globe wireline voice head; Alu Suarez, Mandarin director of sales and marketing; and Gigi Vega, Mandarin executive assistant manager.



JGSPC'S EVALENE CUSTOMER BILLIARD TOURNAMENT 2003

JG Summit Petrochemical Corp., the leading manufacturer of HDPE, LLDPE, and PP resins, recently held its annual Evalene Customer Billiard Tournament. Gary Cheng of Polytech Plastic was this year's 9-ball champion, while Albert Ang of Axial Plastic was first runner-up in the race to 6 final round. Both received the latest Sun Cellular phone kits. Shown in photo (from left) were: Benjie Tan, VP for accounts development; Pol Yasay, VP for administration; Gary Cheng, Albert Ang and Patrick Go, 1st VP for sales.

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

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Empowerment: key to women's health

By Tessa R. Salazar

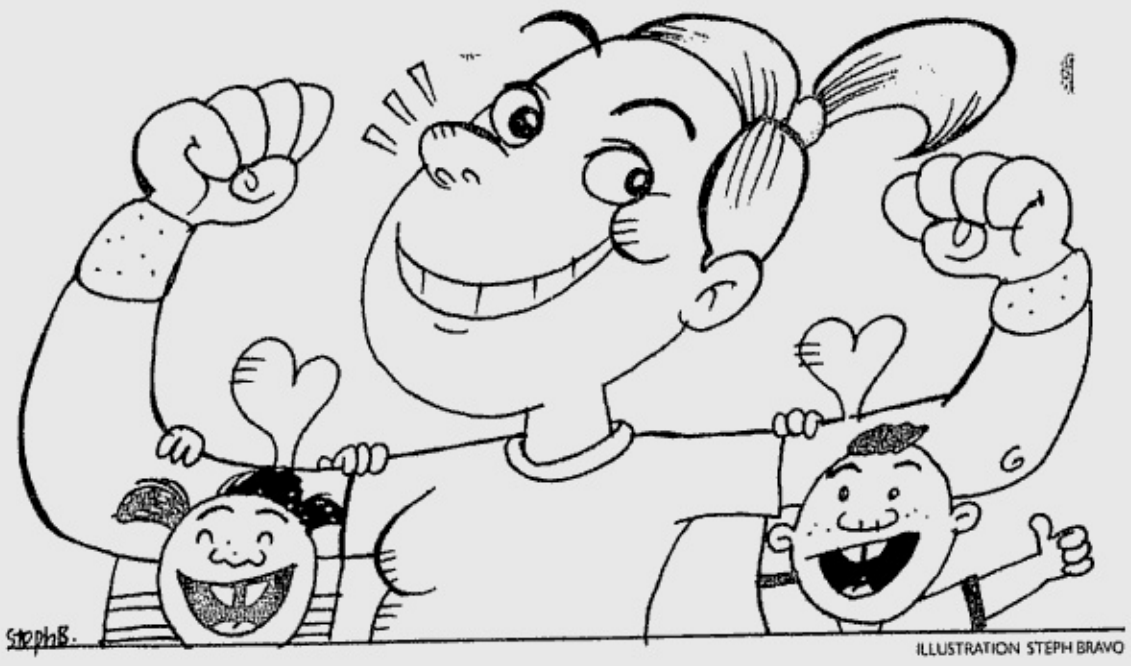

ILLUSTRATION STEPH BRAVO

SOCIETY and humanity have not been too kind to women. Different cultures around the world have often restricted women's roles to reproduction and child-rearing—roles that force women to prioritize the health of others rather than their own.

Despite the more egalitarian Filipino society, many women are still reluctant to make their own decisions. The feeling of powerlessness has consequently led to women's dependence on their partners and parents, and the inability to make their own decisions affecting their health.

Dr. Myrna Cabotaje, director of the Department of Health's National Center for Disease Prevention and Control, said such conditions have not been good for women's hearts.

The real cure for a disease that traces its roots to culture and tradition, she said, was the empowerment of women.

Globalization, according to her, has expanded the role of women. Women no longer just stay at home to fulfill their nurturing tasks, but now also have to attend to their careers.

"The message is: health is the responsibility of women as well as men. Just as women perform as well as men do in production, men can also perform a nurturing role," Cabotaje said.

Heart disease, stroke

The vulnerability of women to the risk of developing heart diseases and suffering from stroke arises from their physical, biological and reproductive makeup.

Yet when women are asked what disease they fear most, majority would likely say breast cancer, according to Philippine Heart Association president Dr. Romeo J. Santos.

"It is not commonly known that death secondary to heart disease and stroke is much more frequent than death secondary to all cancers combined," he said.

Although breast cancer deserves its reputation—one in eight women eventually develops it at some point in her life—a woman should be more wary of heart disease and stroke because the odds of her developing it are greater. They strike one out of every three women, statistics from the United States show.

Lack of awareness

The lack of women's awareness on their vulnerability to cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) prompted health experts to choose "Women, Heart Disease and Stroke" as this year's global theme for World Heart Day.

The PHA and other medical societies worldwide view women as effective advocates of healthy lifestyles and eating habits. Their role in promoting healthy hearts for themselves and for their families and communities is considered an important aspect in preventing CVDs.

Dr. Mariano Lopez, PHA secretary and World Heart Day chair, appealed to people to do their share in helping promote cardiovascular health.

Doctors say that although the quality of life of both sexes in the Philippines during the past decades has improved a lot, much work needs to be done to improve women's nutritional, maternal, reproductive and overall health.

The PHA, DOH and the World Health Organization will celebrate World Heart Day tomorrow, from 6 a.m. to 12 noon at the Philsports Arena (formerly Ultra) in Pasig.

Stress tests help detect heart risk in women

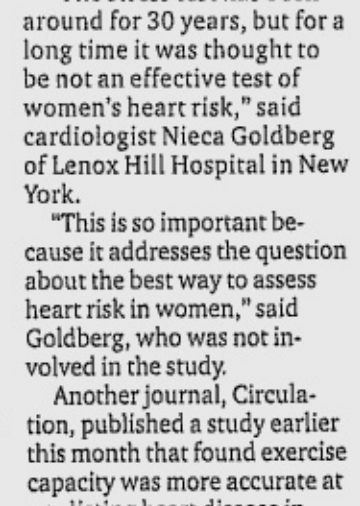
ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

CHICAGO—Doctors hesitate to give women stress tests to diagnose heart disease because the results can be misleading, but a study said on Tuesday that a woman's stamina on the treadmill exam can help gauge her risk.

Stress tests detect abnormal heartbeats in some women that scientists believe are caused by hormonal differences between women and men, and are not necessarily a sign of heart disease.

But focusing on a woman's fitness during the treadmill test—how long she can exercise as her heart beats faster and the time it takes her heartbeat to return to normal after she stops—does predict her risk of eventually dying from heart disease, said study author Samia Mora of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

In a 20-year follow-up study of nearly 3,000 women who took treadmill tests in the 1970s, the women who performed below average were 3.5 times more likely to die of heart disease compared to those who performed better than average.

Unreliable stress test results sometimes require women to undergo expensive follow-up tests to see if their heart abnormalities were a sign of heart problems. Half of women with perceived abnormalities on the stress test turn out not to have heart disease.

In the report published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, Mora concluded that regular exercise was more important than losing weight, lowering blood pressure or reducing cholesterol levels in lessening a woman's risk of heart attack or stroke.

"The stress test has been around for 30 years, but for a long time it was thought to be not an effective test of women's heart risk," said cardiologist Nieca Goldberg of Lenox Hill Hospital in New York.

"This is so important because it addresses the question about the best way to assess heart risk in women," said Goldberg, who was not involved in the study.

Another journal, Circulation, published a study earlier this month that found exercise capacity was more accurate at predicting heart disease in women than in men. *Reuters*

When they were giants

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

THIS is how I imagine the animated movie's beginning: "Gather 'round children," says the aged guinea pig in the rocking chair.

The light reveals dirt walls and a cozy-looking kitchen/living room (a much more comforting visual than the bars of a cage in a busy pet store) as about 20 little guinea pig/hamster-looking (they all look alike anyway in cartoons, right?) rodents cluster around the storyteller.

"I will tell you the story as I heard it from my grandmother, who heard it when she was your age from her grandmother, who heard the story from her grandmother. Once upon a time our people roamed freely amid the grasslands. Our ancestors were giants; easily visible from a distance..."

Think "The Land Before Time I-VIII" (for the era) meets "The Lion King" (for the location), with elements of "The Secret of NIMH" (just for the heck of it).

I'm seeing Angela Lansbury as the voice of the grandmother guinea pig, the hot new child stars playing the little ones, and in the title role of The Biggest Guinea Pig of Them All, I see James Earl Jones. Who else can do a deep, intimidating voice and yet be a really nice guy?

Of course, I doubt Disney, Warner Bros. or even Fox will be rushing this story into production. But at least I can say I thought of it first so they can maybe give me storyline credit somewhere.

Largest rodent ever

If you still haven't figured out what I'm talking about, check out pages 1708-1710 of the Sept. 19 issue of Science.

Venezuela, land of beautiful women who always seem to make it to the top 10 finalists for the Miss Universe competitions, was probably once home to the largest rodent that ever walked the earth.

About three years ago, paleontologists found skeletal remains in the swampy Urumaco Formation in northwestern Venezuela, where other fossils from the Upper Miocene era (approximately 24 million BC to 5 million BC) have been found before. After years of piecing the bones together, and trying to figure out what it must have looked like in real life, Marcelo Sánchez-Villagra of the Zoology Department of Germany's Universität Tübingen and his colleagues announced that the skeleton belonged to a creature which goes by the Latin name *Phoberomys pattersoni*.

The skeleton was nicknamed Goya, and he'd have been the guinea pig's distant cousin several times removed.

This is how Dr. Sánchez-Villagra describes him: "Imagine a weird guinea pig but huge, with a long tail for balancing on its hind legs and continuously growing teeth."

As large as a carabao

Goya is estimated to be about 4,500 times the size of today's guinea pig, which isn't much bigger than a newborn kitten.

So how big was he? Think of a carabao.

Now, keeping the animal's size in your head, replace the image of a carabao with that of an extremely hairy guinea pig, fur long and falling all the way to the floor. Now remove some of the hair and add a beaver tail (how else would it have managed to sit up?).

Ladies and gentlemen, meet Goya. Goya, welcome to the 20th century.

Vegetarian

Goya was a vegetarian, which was apparently a good thing.

According to animal physiologist R. McNeill Alexander of the University of Leeds in Scotland, author of a supplementary paper on Goya in the same issue of Science, the smaller the animal, the slower its metabolism, which isn't good when you have to break down the cellulose in plants to get at the nutrients you need to survive.

In Goya's case, his size made the plant diet easy.

This leads to the next mystery: what killed him off?

Goya lived in an age of giants, when his neighbors in the swamplands would have been huge turtles, enormous crocodiles and I'm imagining catfish the size of a whole *lechon*.

Surely the crocodiles felt like having some free-range mammals for lunch once in a while. But I think maybe food ran out as well, which meant all the animals shrunk over time to be able to live on what they could find. (That would explain why all the dinosaurs are birds now.)

According to Goya's family tree, the guinea pig and the chinchilla (think Chihuahua size) have other cousins like the agouti and the capybara, who are about as big as a medium-sized dog, but no one bigger.

So here's the voiceover ending for the movie as the camera zooms out to show Goya looking nobly and majestically at something off-camera as the sun sets behind him: If the food supply determines how big the animals grow, then given the worldwide food shortages, there will never be another Goya again.

(E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.)

Magnetic shoes don't help any

CHICAGO—Magnets do not relieve pain, and the money spent on magnetic shoe inserts to battle aching feet would be better spent on more comfortable shoes, a scientist said recently.

"What this study found was conclusive evidence that the magnets in the insoles that we studied were not at all helpful in relieving pain," said study author Dr. Mark Winemiller of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Magnet believers say wearing them against a painful body part may increase blood flow or change the way nerves transmit pain, but there was little evidence of those benefits, Winemiller said.

His nine-month study of 100 people with plantar fasciitis, a common cause of heel pain, found no difference in reported discomfort whether or not the wearer's shoe insert contained a magnet. At the conclusion of the study, one-third of the participants said their freshly cushioned feet felt better, regardless of whether a magnet was used.

"Most often, people will get the most benefit from good, supportive shoes, arch-supporting insoles and proper stretching exercises," Winemiller said. *Reuters*

Why sweating is good for your body

By Charles E. Buban

YOU run three to five kilometers a day or negotiate several flights of stairs while going to work or school each day. And you probably hate those beads of sweat dripping from your body that result from such activity.

But sweating is healthy.

Apart from cooling down the body when one gets overheated, sweating is a sign that you are giving your heart the exercise it needs. Cardiovascular activities such as running, walking, stair climbing and dancing improve heart health, and the amount you sweat is a good indication of how much you have accomplished.

Best health insurance policy

"Cardiovascular exercise is one of the best health insurance policies in the world because of its calorie-burning and heart-protecting benefits," said TV show host and health buff Dyan Castillejo-Garcia during a forum last Wednesday organized in part by the Philippine Heart Association.

Cardiovascular exercise has received a lot of attention over the past years as the centerpiece of fitness, weight management and cardio-respiratory (heart and lung) health.

Unfortunately, the principles and guidelines of cardiovascular exercise are not always understood.

ILLUSTRATION STEPH BRAVO

"A lot of people still don't have any idea how many days a week they should exercise or how long each session should be," said PHA president Dr. Romeo Santos.

For a person's fitness to improve, the doctor said one needs to exercise regularly.

Said Santos: "Try a minimum of 30 minutes of low to moderately intense physical activity on most days of the week. Or 10 minutes, three times a day, may fit into your schedule better than one 30-minute session, and it counts just as much."

An eight-year study of 13,000 people by the American Council on Exercise found that those who walked 30 minutes a day had a significantly lower risk of premature death than those who rarely exercised.

Other benefits of walking

The group said a regular walking program can also help reduce blood cholesterol, lower blood pressure, increase cardiovascular endurance, boost bone strength, burn calories and keep weight down.

"Many experts recommend walking a minimum of 20 minutes a day," said Castillejo-Garcia. "But there are no hard-and-fast rules and the best (walking) schedule is one that keeps you walking and keeps you fit."

Drink water

The importance of drinking enough water while exercising, especially during the warmer months, cannot be emphasized enough.

"When we exercise, we build up heat in working muscles, causing our internal temperatures to rise. We cool ourselves by sweating," said Santos.

Sweating is the body's most important means for heat loss, especially during exercise.

1 glass every 15 minutes

But when there is a lot of moisture in the air, evaporation isn't an effective means to cool off, and we keep sweating and losing fluids to stay comfortable. This means we have to drink more water to replenish the lost fluids.

Drink a glass of water every 15 minutes during your workout. This may seem a lot, but it is necessary to keep you hydrated. If you can't drink that much water at once, take smaller amounts every 10 minutes, experts suggest.

If you continue to exercise without proper fluid intake, you may experience a drop in blood pressure, feel faint, dizzy or nauseous—which are symptoms of heat exhaustion.

If you keep going, your body's ability to dissipate heat is further impaired and you may suffer a heat stroke, which would need immediate medical attention.

Licking smoking and COPD

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

MEDICAL FILES

YOU travel to a scenic spot to get a refreshing view that uplifts the spirit. You inhale deeply to get as much fresh air which nourish the lungs and flush out the city's smog, smoke and dust. This looks like a great healthy moment, then you spoil it all by lighting a cigarette.

A patient, who smokes two packs a day, tells me that he goes out of town every weekend to avoid the air pollution in the big city. He hardly realizes that he carries his main source of pollution with him, and no amount of clean, mountain-fresh air can compensate for the layers of nicotine he has unwittingly deposited in his lungs.

If you smoke and still can't lick the habit, you owe it to yourself to at least know when you're already in trouble. What you might think is a simple smoker's cough may already be a sign of a developing lung illness.

Signs of lung disease

According to the American Lung Association, the following are the most frequent warning signs of lung disease. If you smoke and are experiencing any of these symptoms, discuss them with your physician as soon as possible. Further tests may have to be done and early treatment, with smoking cessation as a non-negotiable requirement, may still reverse the development of serious irreversible lung diseases.

• Chronic cough that has lasted a month. This is an important early symptom indicating something is wrong with your breathing system, regardless of your age.

• Shortness of breath that continues after a brief rest following normal exercise or comes after little or no exertion is not normal. Labored or difficult breathing, the feeling that it is hard to draw air into your lungs or breathe it out is also a warning sign.

• Chronic mucus production. Mucus, or sputum, is produced by the lungs as a defense response to infection or irritants. If your mucus production has lasted a month, this could indicate lung disease.

• Noisy breathing or wheezing is a sign that something unusual is blocking the airways of your lungs or making the airways too narrow.

• Coughing out blood. The blood may be coming from your lungs or upper respiratory tract. Whatever the source of the blood, it is a sign of a health problem.

These symptoms should not be dismissed as a harmless consequence of smoking. Smokers should have themselves checked early. If one waits for symptoms to become severe, one has already lost valuable treatment time.

Most lung diseases can be helped by treatment and can be reversed if caught early enough.

COPD

Cigarette smoking is the most important risk factor for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or COPD.

Approximately 80 to 90 percent of COPD cases are caused by smoking; a smoker is 10 times more likely to die of COPD than a non-smoker.

COPD consists primarily of two related diseases—chronic bronchitis and emphysema. In both diseases, there is chronic obstruction of the flow of air through the airways and out of the lungs, and the obstruction generally is permanent and progressive over time.

At first there may be only a mild shortness of breath and occasional coughing. Then a chronic cough develops with clear, colorless sputum. As the disease progresses, the cough becomes more frequent and more and more effort is needed to get air into and out of the lungs.

In later stages, the heart may be affected. Eventually death occurs when the function of the lungs and heart is no longer adequate to deliver oxygen to the body's organs and tissues.

Effect of quitting

When smokers quit, within mere minutes of smoking that last cigarette, the body begins a series of remarkable changes.

Twenty minutes after quitting, blood pressure decreases. Eight hours afterward, the carbon monoxide level in blood drops to normal and the oxygen level in blood increases to normal.

After 48 hours, nerve endings in the lungs start regrowing and the ability to smell and taste is enhanced. As the weeks go by, lung function increases; coughing, fatigue and shortness of breath decrease.

Be aware that smokers have different experiences when they quit. They may feel sleepy or very excited, lightheaded, nervous or irritable. They might crave tobacco or sweets or have headaches. Learn how to recognize and manage your "withdrawal" symptoms.

Be sure to get some exercise every day. Walking is a great way to reduce the stress of quitting. Exercise is a big boost toward feeling better, improving spirits and keeping trim.

Get plenty of sleep, eat a balanced diet and drink a lot of water. Ask family, friends and co-workers to help.

Don't give up. Many smokers fail on their first attempt to stay off cigarettes. Try again and again until you succeed at quitting.

Metrobank Outstanding Teachers: Elementary

(First of four parts)

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

THIS year's Metrobank awardees hail from all over the country, and part of the fulfillment of being part of the group is getting to know dedicated mentors and swap insights. It is refreshing to learn that many teachers still perform their tasks well, and often extend help beyond what is expected. Here are the elementary level teachers of the year, all first-time awardees from their respective schools.

Salvacion R. Calabucal has been teaching in Hen. Pio del Pilar Elementary School in Makati for 26 years. An avatar of special education, she co-wrote "Functional Curriculum for the Visually Impaired-Multihandicapped Pupils," which covers self-help and prevocational skills and has been implemented in Metro Manila.

Having grown up in a family of educators (five of her aunts were teachers or administrators), she set up the Busilak na Paglingap Center for special students and volunteered to instruct out-of-school youths and adults every Saturday.

She continues to play an active role in several programs in her barangay, and was chosen the 2002 DepEd Outstanding Teacher (national), the 2002 Makati Division Outstanding Teacher, the 2000 NCR Outstanding Teacher and the 1996 GSP-Rizal Council Gold Medal Service Awardee.

She swears by the Chinese proverb, "Tell me, and I'll forget. Show me, and I may remember. Involve me, and I will understand."

What is her teaching style?

"I try to involve the students' life skills in a natural setting by providing repeated opportunities where they could practice these skills using real objects. I take advantage of every 'teachable moment' using a multisensory approach and provide assistance only as needed, for...independence should be every teacher's ultimate goal. This requires a lot of energy, creativity, flexibility, patience and repetition in a structured situation, but I always provide chances for success, reward desired behavior and even redirect children whenever necessary."

First awardee from Ifugao

Marilou T. Yogyog, after 16 years of service, is the first awardee not just from Lagawe Central School, but from the entire Ifugao province.

Although she specializes in Filipino, she is also active in the physical arts and has trained students and teachers in her district in folk dance and sports.

She designed indigenized instructional materials for the division and school levels, is the force behind the Philippine Folk Dance Society (Ifugao chapter), and is also the troop leader in the GSP-Ifugao Council. An active member of the parish choir, the parents-teachers community association and the Catholic Ladies Association, Mrs. Yogyog received the 1996 GSP Troop Leaders Award, and her pupils have won several national contests in various areas.

Mrs. Yogyog's main source of fulfillment comes from her successful former pupils, among them a topnotcher in the 2002 MMA Class, a cum laude at a prestigious university and a lawyer. She believes that the ideal teacher is service-oriented, is committed and open to change.

Writer-teacher

Ma. Luisa D. Gibraltar has been serving Igcocolo Elementary School in Guimbal, Iloilo, for 40 years. At the age of 5, she dreamed of becoming a teacher, and fulfilled it 14 years later.

Specializing in English, she has conducted teaching demonstrations, poetry workshops and tutorial lessons in her region. Furthermore, she works with mothers of students in the school, the Municipal Historical Committee (writing the history of the town), the Basic Integrated Theater Arts Guimbal Center, and many other community groups.

A weekly columnist of the Hiligaynon Magazine and a lyricist of the "Guimbal Tricentennial Hymn," she was recently chosen one of five women writers from the Visayas to be included in the directory of the 100 Filipino Writers in the Philippines. In 2002, she received an executive citation from the municipal mayor as a Guimbal achiever and a certificate merit (congressional level).

After a lifetime of teaching, she feels that courage and truth go hand in hand.

"Children can be trained to be honest and to tell the truth no matter what the consequences," she muses. "Yes, as someone once said, by telling the truth, we make enemies. But often a person who is afraid of making enemies cannot be expected to tell the truth."

MSD CITED FOR LATEST PRICE ROLLBACK

Health Secretary Manuel M. Dayrit cited Merck Sharp and Dohme (MSD) for the latest price rollback of its prescription drug simvastatin. This will result to a savings ranging from 37 to 57 percent, making MSD's prescription drug more affordable in the market and more accessible to the public. From left are DOH head executive assistant Dr. Yolanda Oliveros, Dayrit, MSD managing director Michael Harris and corporate affairs director Christine Liwanag.

SCISCOPE

Plasmacluster ions deactivate airborne mite allergens

SHARP Corp., together with the Department of Molecular Biotechnology of the Graduate School of Advanced Sciences of Matter at Hiroshima University, has verified for the first time in the world that its own Plasmacluster ion technology deactivates airborne mite allergens, a cause of allergy-related disorders, and are effective in controlling symptoms even when the allergens are inhaled.

This air purification technology uses a plasma discharge to generate large numbers of positive and negative ions from airborne water and oxygen molecules. Large quantities of the ions are released back into the air.

By taking advantage of the properties of positive and negative ions to form clusters around microparticles and react chemically with them, airborne fungi, influenza viruses, etc., are rendered inactive.

Sharp developed this air purification technology in 2000 and verified for the first time that airborne fungi, influenza viruses, etc., are inactivated (become incapable of reproducing). It has utilized the technology in numerous products.

EU approves new drug for spine disorder

THE EUROPEAN Commission of the European Union has approved a new drug for treating ankylosing spondylitis (AS), a chronic and debilitating inflammatory disease of the spinal column.

AS is characterized by inflammation of the joints of the spine, which causes painful stiffening of the spine, and eventually leads to fusion of the vertebrae, often leaving the back curved and inflexible. It can also cause inflammation of peripheral and axial joints and tendons.

In young men usually affected by AS, symptoms can vary from severe back pain to loss of motion, deformity and frequently, disability. Patients suffering from this condition also often experience severe fatigue, which significantly contributes to their deteriorating quality of life.

Marketed under the brand name Remicade by Schering Plough Corp., the new drug infliximab is the first and only anti-TNF (tumor necrosis factor) agent approved to treat AS. It is also the only biologic approved in the EU for treating rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, a serious gastrointestinal disorder and AS. With this approval, infliximab is authorized to be marketed in all 15 member-states as well as Iceland and Norway.

Pfizer holds patient clubs general meeting

TO PROVIDE patients with value-added services, Pfizer conducted the first Pfizer Patient Clubs general meeting titled "1 sa Puso: One in Health, One in Wellness." The gathering took place recently at the AFP Theater in Camp Aguinaldo. It was attended by over 1,500 guests, filling the venue to maximum capacity.

Patients arrive in droves as they lined up for the free medicines, healthy products like oatmeal and milk and free health checks, which included cholesterol, glucose, blood pressure, ECG and dental checkups.

Guests headed for the theater where they watched a lifestyle talk show about health, hosted by upbeat TV personality Tin-tin Bersola. After a hearty introduction by Pfizer medical director Dr. Anthony Leachon, the spotlight was focused on Dr. Adolfo Bellosillo, Foundation for Lay Education of Heart Disease president. Dr. Bellosillo's wit and humor added life to the serious discussion on the heart, high blood pressure and high cholesterol.

Cardiologist and UST professor Joselito Atabug expounded on the effects of smoking, diet, sex and exercise on the heart. He also discussed lifestyle changes needed to ensure that individuals lead a healthy life. Dr. Rosario Baes, a rheumatologist from UST, joined the discussion to talk about exercise with people with arthritis.

CELEBRATING WORLD HEART DAY

Women, Heart Disease and Stroke in Focus

By: Dr. Romeo J. Santos
President, Philippine Heart Association

The Philippine Heart Association (PHA) is spearheading this year's celebration of World Heart Day (WHD) with the theme "Women, Heart Disease, and Stroke", to be held at the Ultra Sports Center in Pasig City on Sunday, September 28, 2003. The PHA is an organization composed of almost one thousand cardiovascular specialists. It is committed to help our general population achieve longer and better life through prevention and control of heart disease and stroke, which is now the number one cause of morbidity and mortality in the country.

Every last Sunday of September is declared by the World Heart Federation (WHF) as World Heart Day and is celebrated by over 90 countries worldwide. The PHA, a member organization of WHF takes this occasion to highlight the value of prevention of cardiovascular disease and stroke through promotion of healthy lifestyle. Physical activity, tobacco-free living, healthy nutrition, weight control and early detection and control of high blood pressure, high blood sugar and high blood cholesterol can help prevent them.

Why is this year's WHD celebration focused on women? It is noted that when women are asked what disease they are most scared of, a majority will answer without hesitation: Breast Cancer. It is not commonly known that death in women secondary to heart disease and stroke are much more frequent than death secondary to all cancers combined. In the U.S.A., the ominous statistics show that one out of eight women will develop breast cancer at some point in their life. However, women should be more scared of heart disease and stroke because it will strike one out of every three women.

Women and heart disease, is it for real? Most people believed that cardiovascular disease (CVD) is mainly a man's problem. In actuality, CVD does not discriminate between the sexes. It is even noted in statistics that once women get sick of heart disease or stroke, it is more often fatal than in men and, if not fatal, more severely disabling compared to men.

It is also noted that women experience different warning signs than men when suffering a heart attack. The symptoms are often more subtle. The classic symptoms of heart attack are squeezing heaviness over the chest, radiating to the jaw, neck or left arm accompanied by sweating, nausea, vomiting, and shortness of breath. Other symptoms of heart attack that are more likely noted in women include unexpected weakness or fatigue, anxiety, indigestion, feeling of heaviness or pressure like chest pain between breasts or shoulder blades.

While it is true that women, because of their monthly hormonal cycle, are in some way protected from CVD, pre-menopausal women are not immune to heart disease and stroke. Smoking and diabetes completely counteract whatever protective benefits a woman normally enjoys before menopause. That is why in the U.S.A. heart attacks strike 9,000 women younger than 45 years of age each year. Men usually develop heart disease and stroke earlier than women. After menopause, the incidence of CVD in women would rise and equal that of men.

If pre-menopausal women without cardiovascular (CV) risk factors are protected from CVD because of their monthly hormonal cycle, will hormonal replacement therapy (HRT) prevent CVD in post-menopausal women? The Women's Health Initiative (WHI) is one of the several large-scale randomized clinical trials which have shown that taking estrogen plus progestin does not protect post-menopausal women from CVD. On the contrary, women taking HRT in this form were at increased risk for heart attack, stroke, venous thrombo-embolism and breast cancer compared with women not taking it.

Cardiovascular risk factors are conditions which, when present, make one predisposed to develop CVD. At the top of CV risk factors that men and women share is smoking. It is the most dangerous killer for both sexes. Other CV risk factors are diabetes, high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, excessive weight and physical inactivity. Some factors seem to affect women more severely than men. Women are more likely to be overweight, less likely to exercise and appear to be more adversely affected by stress.

On World Heart Day, September 28, 2003, the PHA and its eight regional chapters in collaboration with our partners, the Department of Health and the Heart Foundation of the Philippines, will offer activities focused on promoting healthy lifestyle for women and their loved ones. In cooperation with the city of Pasig, led by their caring Lady Mayor, Soledad Eusebio, supported by the 19-member organizations of the Mag-Healthy-Lifestyle (MagHL Tayo) Coalition and together with our friends in the pharmaceutical and health industry, fun-run, mass aerothenics, cardiopulmonary resuscitation demonstration and a Health Fair will be held at the Ultra Sports Center in Pasig City.

Participants can visit booths where booths where blood pressure screening, free blood sugar and blood cholesterol determination can be done. Body mass index to determine obesity and bone density determination for osteoporosis will be available. Physicians shall be present to assess and determine the need for intervention. Free medicines shall be given to patients in need.

The World Heart Day is an opportunity to underscore the importance of CVD prevention through healthy lifestyle and early detection and control of CVD risk factors. A healthy heart is vital for living life to the full, regardless of age and gender.

WORLD HEART FEDERATION

Pfizer, Inc. supports the Philippine Heart Association and the World Heart Federation in its celebration of World Heart Day.

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SALVADOR was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as
per Doc. # 371; Page # 75;
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TESDA

Republic of the Philippines
Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)

INVITATION FOR BIDS

September, 2003
Loan No. 1750-PH TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Contract No. ADBTES – 03

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the Technical Education and Skills Development Project (TESDP) and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for Courseware Learning Materials (ADBTES-03)
2. The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) now invites Sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the supply and delivery of various courseware materials in books and electronic format for use in TESDP.
3. The procurement will be conducted in accordance with ADB's International Shopping (IS) procedure, single-stage one-envelope, and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the TESDA and inspect the Bidding Document from 9:00-4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday from September 22, 2003 at the address given in Item 9 below.
5. The Bidding Document in the English language, may be purchased by the interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below beginning September 22, 2003 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Philippine pesos 2,500.00 or US$45.00 to the TESDA Cashier with office at 3rd Floor, TESDA Administrative Building, TESDA Compound, East Service Road, South Superhighway, Taguig, Metro Manila. Foreign bidders may deposit through BSP Account No. 021085295 with Federal Reserved Bank of New York for further credit to Treasurer of the Philippines FCC Dollar Account. The method of payment will either be in certified bank cheque or cash. The document will be couriered or sent through registered mail. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.
6. A Pre-Bid Conference with interested eligible Bidders will be held on October 13, 2003, 2:00 pm at the address below, during which all clarifications related to the bidding shall be discussed. Bidders' representatives are invited to participate in the said conference.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 12:00 noon on November 24, 2003, accompanied with a Bid Security of not less than 2% of the amount of the bid. Late Bids shall be rejected, Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on November 24, 2003 at 2:00 PM.
8. TESDA will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.
9. The address of the Project Management Office is:

   Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
   TESDA Compound, TESDP Project Management Office
   Ground Floor, Pevoti Building
   East Service Road, South Superhighway
   Taguig, Metro Manila
   Philippines
   Contact Person : The Bids and Awards Committee Chairman
   Telefax : (63 2) 8938306

(Sgd.) Dr. ALCESTIS M. GUIANG
Project Director, TESDP
Director-General, TESDA

(PDI – September 20 & 27, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Commissioner **ARMI JANE R. BORJE** of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) informs the public that the operation of 100 milliwatts (mW) paging equipment with music capability is **STRICTLY INTENDED FOR PAGING PURPOSES ONLY**, inside a **MALL** and/or other **ENCLOSED PUBLIC PLACES** such as in auditoriums and/or in Public or Private Buildings with a reach of not more than 100 meters radius. This equipment is not authorized to operate as an FM Radio Broadcast Station with external antenna.

Any equipment found, therefore, operating as an FM Radio Broadcast Station, with and whose transmission shall exceed more than a 100 meters radius shall be subjected to confiscation and forfeiture.

The public is enjoined to fully cooperate with this undertaking and **CEASE AND DESIST** from operating such and any other equipment as an FM radio broadcasting station without being enfranchised or be certificated by this Commission.

ARMI JANE R. BORJE
Commissioner

(PDI - Sept. 27, 2003)

Personality Enhancement and Fashion Workshop
October 18 - November 29 The Forum, Podium

Personality Enhancement/Grooming
OCTOBER 18, 2003 1:00PM - 6:00PM

Effective Communications
OCTOBER 25, 2003 1:00PM - 6:00PM

Pictorial Session
NOVEMBER 8, 2003 9:00AM - 6:00PM

Basic and Advanced Ramp Modeling
NOVEMBER 15, 2003 9:00AM - 6:00PM

General Rehearsal
NOVEMBER 22, 2003 9:00AM - 6:00PM

The Dreamcast Day
NOVEMBER 29, 2003 11:00AM - CALL TIME

Registration Dates: September 10 - September 30, 2003 at the FORUM, PODIUM. HURRY! Limited slots only.
For Inquiries call: The Forum at 6372630 ask for Joy or text Bing - 0917-626-1213 or Tinette - 0917 890-5116

OUR ENHANCEMENT PARTNERS

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Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City 1100 Philippines
Telephone 925-2401

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

DESCRIPTION	Approved Budget	Bidding Fee
One (1) year contract for the ff: Services (January 1 - December 31, 2004)		
a. Security Services	P 11,697,909.00	P 12,000.00
b. Janitorial Services	13,466,588.00	14,000.00
Pest Control Services	190,575.00	1,200.00
d. Aircon Maintenance	2,817,461.00	4,000.00
e. Building Maintenance	8,955,221.90	9,500.00
Six (6) months contract for the ff: (January 1 - June 31, 2004)		
1. Medical/Laboratory Supplies	P1,000.00 / co	
2. Pharmaceutical Supplies (medicines)	1,500.00 / principal	
3. Foodstuffs Supplies	500.00 / co	

Source of Funding: PHC FUNDS

The list of registration requirements will be issued at the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, Purchasing Division, Basement of MAB, PHC, East Avenue, Quezon City. Only eligible bidders shall be required to pay the non-refundable fee. The deadline for the submission of requirements is on October 15, 2003 not later than 5:00 p.m. For any inquiry, please call Purchasing Division at tel. no. 922-0574 ask for Ms. Noemi Nocasa.

The PHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids or declare a failure of bidding or not award the contract, if there is evidence of collusion between relevant public officers or employees of the PHC and any of the bidders or among the bidders or between bidders and third parties, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures. The agency also reserves the right to waive any formality on the bids received, provided that such waiver does not refer to a major deviation in a bid or any requirement provided for in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Executive Order No. 40 pertaining to the substance of the bid. Should such review uncover any misrepresentation made in the eligibility statement, or any changes in the situation of the bidder materially downgrade the substance of such statements, the PHC shall disqualify the bidder upon due notice without any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by it in the preparation of its bid.

(Sgd.) RAUL D. JARA, M.D.
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Sept. 27, 28, Oct. 4 & 5, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO OPERATE PRIVATE EXPRESS AND/OR MESSENGERIAL DELIVERY SERVICE

PRIMEDES CASE NO. 2003-15

PRINT COURIER CORPORATION,
petitioner.

ORDER

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Sec. 20, Art. V of R.A. 7354, SPRINT COURIER CORPORATION represented by Ms. Ma. Victoria O. Alvarez, President with business address at Unit 102, 4328 Gen. Tinio Street, Barangay Makati City, Metro Manila, has filed with this Office a verified petition for Authority to Operate Private Express and/or Messengerial Delivery Services within Metro-Manila.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, and after ocular inspection of the business premises, the initial public hearing of the said application shall be conducted on 17 October 2003 at 2:30 in the afternoon at the Office of the Chairman, Postal Regulation Committee, 16/F Rm. 104, Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City. All those who intend to oppose the verified petition shall file a verified opposition within this Office at least five (5) days before the scheduled hearing and serve a copy thereof to the petitioner.

Let this Order be published in a newspaper of general circulation once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks preceding the initial hearing at the expense of the petitioner.

Let the copy of this Order together with Petition and supporting documents thereto be served to the Private Express and Messengerial Association of the Philippines (PEMAP) and to the Assistant Postmaster General, PPC.

SO ORDERED.

Mandaluyong City, 1st September 2003.

(Sgd.) ATTY. KENNETH M. BARREDO
Director III, Examining Review Staff
Chairman, Postal Regulation Committee

Copy Furnished:
(Sgd.) MS. MA. VICTORIA O. ALVAREZ
Unit 102, 4328 Gen. Tinio Street, Barangay Makati City, Metro Manila

(Sgd.) ATTY. ANTONIO Z. DE GUZMAN
Assistant Postmaster General
Philippine Postal Corporation
Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila

(Sgd.) MR. RUBERT MARIANO
President, PEMAP
21/N Segarong, Makati
1044 Manila

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

Date: 22 September 2003

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Contract Code: Sp03.BSSP.Mi-0006
Title: Construction, Erection and Installation of 138KV Substation Equipment for the New Bunawan Switching Station
Location: Bunawan, Davao City

The works to be completed by the successful bidder shall consist of furnishing all superintendence, labor, materials, supplies, tools and equipment (except materials and equipment specified to be furnished by TRANSCO), and constructing complete the substation and installing all substation equipment to complete the Construction, Erection and Installation of 138kV Substation Equipment for the New Bunawan Switching Station in accordance with the Plans and Specifications. The work also includes site development, construction of new control house, warehouse, pumphouse and guardhouse, etc.

3. The Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid is **SIXTY SIX MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FORTY THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTY THREE PESOS (PHP66,740,883.00)** from the Internal Cash Generation (ICG) of National Transmission Corporation.
4. Application for Eligibility is open to Filipino contractors who have the legal, technical and financial requisites of the contract/project to be bid with the following License and Registration Particulars.
   License: at least "Category AAA - Specialty: Electrical Works"
   Registration: at least "Large B - Specialty: Electrical Works"
5. Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited to bid. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding subject to Postqualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.
6. Eligibility Documents and Forms will be available for issuance on **September 25, 2003** at the Bids and Contracts Management Department, National Transmission Corporation, Ground Floor, TransCo Building, Power Complex, Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1104, Telefax No.: 921-2308 upon presentation of Letter of Intent, Contractor's License and a payment of non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 per copy.
7. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before **October 24, 2003** and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
8. Contractor, not yet included in the Transco's List of Registered Contractors, who wishes to participate in the public bidding, in order to facilitate eligibility check/screening, are requested to register with the registration office mentioned above by submitting the following basic requirements which should be maintained current and updated at least once a year. A Certificate of Registration will be issued to contractors upon approval:
   - Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, as appropriate;
   - Mayor's permit and/or municipal license for the current year
   - Taxpayer's Identification Number;
   - Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation, including in the case of procurement of civil works, non-inclusion in the "blacklist" of contractors issued by the CIAP
   - Audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing, among others, the prospective bidder's total and current assets and liabilities inclusive of Income Tax Return and Receipt;
   - Contractor's License
9. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all Bids or request for registration without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
10. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) WINIFREDO SM. PANGILINAN
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Sept. 25, 27 & 30, 2003)

INVITATION TO BID "AS IS WHERE IS"
Damaged Motor Vehicles

2000 Toyota Hi-Lux, P/up/WKP-269
1997 Honda Accord, 4dr/WAY-647

For particulars, call Philam Ins. Co., Inc./
Dick Cariño, Tel. #878-54-57

(PDI-Sept. 27 & 28, 2003)

TO ALL COMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCAST ENTITIES

Please be advised that in order to receive the payments of Supervision Fees due on September 30, 2003 in accordance with the provision of Commonwealth Act 146 otherwise known as the Public Service Act, The Cashier Section of the National Telecommunications Commission at BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City will be open up to 12:00 midnight on the above date.

(Sgd.) **ARMI JANE R. BORJE**
Commissioner

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MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.

G/F MWSI Bldg., MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines 1100
Tel. Nos. 435-3366, 920-5521 loc. 3600, 3615, 3616

INVITATION TO BID (E-Bid)

The Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI) is inviting all interested bidders to participate in the **Electronic Bidding for the supply and delivery of Brass Fittings**, as shown below:

No.	Qty.	Item/Description
1	10,000 pcs.	Brass Valve Angle anti-theft 15mm valve size with provision for locking 20mm x 20mm FTE inlet x swivel nut outlet thread ISO 7
2	12,000 pcs.	Brass Ball Valve 15mm valve size with provision for locking 20mm FTE inlet thread size x 20mm swivel nut outlet thread ISO 7
3.	23,600 pcs.	Brass Union Coupling Adaptor 25mm CJ x CJ for PE

AS PER MWSI TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION
Section 32009 Rev. No./Date: 00/18 September 01

Interested supplier/manufacturers are required to submit the pre-qualification requirements enumerated in the Terms and Conditions, on or before **October 3, 2003**, 4:00 p.m. at the Purchasing Department.

The complete bid documents can be secured at the Purchasing Department, Basement, Eng'g. Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos Only (P1,000.00) in the form of cash or Manager's Check payable to Maynilad Water Services, Inc.

E-Bid schedule will be on October 21, 2003 (Tuesday), 3:00 p.m.

MWSI finally reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any and all informalities therein, and accept the bid it deems most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) **IGNACIO B. GIMENEZ**
SAVP, Corporate Logistics

(PDI - Sept. 26 & 27, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR REGISTRATION/ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)** invites all interested consulting firms to participate in the bidding for the Detailed Architectural and Engineering Design of the proposed NFA Central Office Building at the NFA Compound, Visayas Ave., Quezon City. The approved budget is P2M. The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

October 13-17, 2003	- Submission of Letter of Intent/ Issuance of Registration/Eligibility Requirements
October 21, 2003	- Deadline for Submission of Registration/Eligibility Requirements
October 27-28, 2003	- Eligibility Requirements Notification of Shortlisted/Eligible Bidders
October 29-31, 2003	- Issuance of Bid Documents to Shortlisted/Eligible Bidders
November 5, 2003 (10:00 AM)	- Pre-bidding Conference
November 18, 2003 (9:00 - 10:30 AM)	- Submission of Bid Proposals
(10:45 AM)	- Opening of Bid Proposals

Registration/eligibility requirements can be secured from and submitted to BAC Secretariat, ODAFA, 7th Floor Matimyas Building, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City. Bidding documents may likewise be secured from BAC Secretariat and the same shall be issued to duly registered/eligible/short listed bidders upon payment of P2,000.00, non-refundable fee.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY REQUIRED FORMALITY IN THE BIDS RECEIVED PROVIDED THAT SUCH WAIVE DOES NOT REFER TO A MAJOR DEVIATION IN A BID AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator & Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Sept. 27 & Oct. 4, 2003)

Republika ng Pilipinas
PANGASIWAAN NG TUBIG AT ALKANTARILYA SA METRO MANILA
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105, Philippines
CORPORATE OFFICE

INVITATION TO BID

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) invites Interested Contractors (Medium A) to submit sealed bids for the Public Bidding of Re-construction of Existing Perimeter Fence and Raising of Existing Fence of the La Mesa Dam/Reservoir located along Quirino Highway, Quezon City denominated as Contract No. RPF-QH-01 with Approved Budget Cost of P9.88 M chargeable against MWSS Local Funds. The contract duration for this Project shall be 120 calendar days from the issuance of the Notice to Proceed.

Interested parties may secure bid documents and the checklist of the qualification requirements from:

MWSS BAC SECRETARIAT
Engineering & Project Management Dept.
Ground Floor, MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Telefax: 922-2568

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by any interested eligible Bidder upon payment of a non-refundable fee in cash or in check payable to Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) in the amount of P500.00 starting **October 6, 2003**. All bids shall be accompanied by a bid security in any of the following:

a. Cash, Manager's Check, Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, or Bank Draft - minimum of one (1%) percent of the Approved Budget Cost (ABC).
b. Bank Guarantee - minimum of one and a half (1 1/2%) percent of the Approved Budget Cost (ABC).
c. Surety Bond - minimum of two and a half (2 1/2%) percent of the Approved Budget Cost (ABC).

Submission of Bids (Technical and Financial Proposals) to the above Office must be on or before 2:00 p.m. on **November 6, 2003**. The Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who may choose to attend at the office of MWSS BAC SECRETARIAT, MWSS Engineering & Project Management Department Ground Floor, Engineering/Operations Building, Metropolitan Waterworks & Sewerage System, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Metro Manila.

The official timer for purposes of determining the official time shall be based on the bundy clock located at the Office of MWSS, BAC SECRETARIAT.

Late bids will not be accepted.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be conducted at the above address of the BAC SECRETARIAT on **October 21, 2003** at 2:00 p.m.

(Sgd.) **ORLANDO C. HONDRADE**
Administrator

(PDI - September 20 & 27, 2003)

Department of Health
RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR TROPICAL MEDICINE
Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Tel. Nos. 807-26-28 to 32 Fax No. 842-22-45

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID
BAC-ITB NO. 2003-07

The Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) hereby invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of Janitorial, Security and Engineering Maintenance Services to the Institute.

Interested parties may secure bid form upon payment of non-refundable bidder's fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) from the Property & Supply Department from September 22 to October 1, 2003.

The following schedules will be followed:

Type of Services	Deadline of Submission of Pre-Qualification Documents is at 4:00 P.M.	Bid Conference for Qualified Bidders	Bid Opening
Janitorial	October 3, 2003	October 8, 2003 9:00-11:00 A.M. Lecture Rooms 2 & 3	October 22, 2003 9:00 A.M. Lecture Rooms 2&3
Security	October 3, 2003	October 8, 2003 1:00-3.00 P.M. Lecture Rooms 2&3	October 22, 2003 1:30 P.M. Lecture Rooms 2&3
Engineering Maintenance	October 3, 2003	October 8, 2003 3:00-5.00 P.M. Lecture Rooms 2&3	October 22, 2003 3:00 P.M. Lecture Rooms 2&3

Interested bidders are required to submit the following pre-qualification documents not later than the above mentioned schedule on pre-qualification:

1. Letter of Application for Eligibility and to Bid addressed to the BAC
2. DTI Business Name Registration Certificate
3. SEC Registration Certificate with Articles of Incorporation
4. Mayor's/Business Permit
5. Company Profile that includes a list of employees, their qualification(s) and applicable professional licenses
6. Inventory of existing equipment
7. Statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding in any government agency, office or corporation
8. Statement of previous similar contracts completed in the last five (5) years (i.e. name of company and date of the contract)
9. Certification of performance of existing clients (except RITM)
10. Audited Financial Statements stamped received by the BIR (last 3 years)
11. Taxpayer's Identification Number (TIN)
12. Certified true copy of Income Tax Return duly received by the BIR (last 3 years)
13. BIR Value Added Tax Registration (BIR Form 1556)
14. Certificate of Authorized Representative
15. Under oath certification by the prospective bidder of its duly authorized representative that each of the documents submitted is an original copy or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original (duly notarized).

Only Pre-qualified Bidders shall be allowed to attend the Pre-bid Conference. Attendance to Pre-Bid Conference is a must and failure to show up shall be deemed to have waived his right to participate.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process anytime prior to the award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the RITM's action.

(Sgd.) **SALVACION R. GATCHALIAN, M.D.**
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI-Sept. 20 & 27, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT-ILOCOS
City of San Fernando, La Union
Tel. Nos. 242-5961, 242-7035 & 242-5315
E-mail address: dohreg1@lu.csi.com.ph
Fax No. 888-4326

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Center for Health for Health Development - Ilocos (DOH Region I) hereby invites interested suppliers to pre-qualify and to bid for:

SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENTS AND SUPPLIES

Total Amount P4,422,697.00
Fund Source GOP

Interested parties may secure their pre-qualification and bid forms at the office of the Regional Bids and Awards (RBAC) Chairman/Secretariat, CHD-I Office, Parian, City of San Fernando La Union, between **September 26** to **October 10, 2003** after payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 500.00.

Pre-bid Conference is set on **October 6, 2003** at the CHD-I Conference Hall.

The CHD-I RBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect therein, or accept proposals as may be deemed advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO C. JANAIRO, MD., MPH**
Director IV

(PDI - Sept. 26 & 27, 2003)

OBITUARIES

DANILO (NEIL) B. DEL ROSARIO

of Malabon City
St. James Academy Class of '81
University of the Philippines
Asian Institute of Tourism Class of '85
Corp. President of BUENA ROSA INC.
Dutiful son to **Manrico** & **Gloria**
Patient brother to **Mylene, Mynette, Ma. Luisa, Dante Theodore** and their spouses

Loving uncle to **Mychelle, Johanna, Christina, Migui, Maxine** & **Matthew**

Joined the company of his Creator on September 24, 2003

His remains lie in state at the family residence at
#3 Samson St., Concepcion, Malabon City
Interment date will be announced later.

Clara Galura Pangilinan

*Has joined her husband "**Aurelio**"*
and peacefully rest in the infinite warmth and embrace
of our Lord on September 22, 2003 at the age of 83.

Her loving children **Levi, Aurelio Jr., Charito, Mike, Resty** and **Cora**; their spouses **Nesty, Lee, Mel, Leony, Olive** and **Mario**; her ever loving grandchildren **Lester, Anne, Hernan, Irene, Mario, JP, RJ, Julie, Laurence, Issa, Wendy, May, Andrew, Rachel, Niño, Angelica, Armando, Abby, J.O.** and **Frances**; her relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose and happiness of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Kamagong Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 28, 2003 at the Manila Memorial Park. Immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G Aranata Avenue Quezon City Tels 715-1025 715-1031 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C Raymundo St cor Mercedes Ave San Miguel Ave Pasig City
Tels 747-6599 747 6509 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A B Fernandez Ave Dagupan City Pangasinan
Tels (0785) 522 3451 522-2128 (0917) 434-9978
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G Araneta Ave Quezon City Tel 732-4309 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch A 5 Fortuna Street Banilad Mandaue City Cebu.
Tels 346 2543 346 2691
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills Lahug Cebu City Tels 231-0721 231 3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext cor J Abad Santos Davao City Tels (082) 227-1201 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St Gulod Quezon City
Tels 740 2683 781 3705 781 3688 413-9400 715-5504
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kawayan Olongapo City
Tels (047) 222-3605 (047) 611-1086 (047) 222 4512 (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road Makati City Tel 894 5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave cor Dimasalang St Mandaluyong Manila
Tels 712 5102 741 5125 741 5133 Fax No 711 3064
DYNASTY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
965 Del Monte Ave Project 6 Quezon City Tels 416 3231 4102373
ERIC SANTIAGO MEMORIAL CHAPELS
26 Bayanbayan Ave Concepcion I Marikina City Tels 942 6044 475-1177
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen Luna St Concepcion Malabon Metro Manila.
Tels 281-2963 281 3034 2810522
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor P Burgos St Lourdes Sur Angeles City
Tels (045) 888 2959 (045) 322-5247
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension Pasig City Tels 641 7909 641-1735
M Almeda St Paranaque Metro Manila Tels 842-3010 633-3602

FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St Zapote Alabang Las Pinas Tels 873-0507; 873-0024
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
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Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

ALVIN BILLAN ANG

Who joined his Creator
on September 18, 2003

wish to express our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to our friends, relatives, and all those who offered us solace and comfort in our moment of grief.

We also thank you for joining us in remembering him, who in so many ways, has touched our lives forever.

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JESUS SANCHEZ YUJUICO

Peacefully joined his Creator
on Monday, 22nd of September 2003 at the age of 82
in San Francisco, California, U.S.A.

His loving wife **Marietta**, children and spouses: **Dicky** and **Ching**, **Suzette**, **Berty** and **Charo**, **Greggy**, **Leny**, **Brendon**, grandchildren: **JP** and **Cristina**, **Tracy** and **Frank Chiu**, **Tezza** and **Matt Herrmann**, **JM**, **JR**, **Tricia**, **Regina**, **Victoria**, **Neil**, **Chesca**, **Chabeli**, **Courtney**, and **Carina**; and great grandchildren: **Miguel** and **Christopher**, brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains will arrive on Sunday, September 28, 2003 and will lie in state at Mt. Carmel Chapel, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, October 01, 2003 at the Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish Crypt after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at Mt. Carmel Church.

LEANDRO D. ALESNA

Andrew to his friends and
Boy to his relatives,
has joined his Creator on September 25, 2003
at the age of 64.

His loving wife, **Rosaleda**; children, **Michael**, **Ricci** and **Ruel**, **Leah** and **Frederick**; his grandchildren, **Kaila**, **Cedric**, **Patricia** and **Kei**; his brothers, **Pacifico**, **Florentino, Jr.**, **Jose** (†) and **Roberto**; sister, **Regina**; his in-laws and relatives request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 28, 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque after the 2:00 PM Mass.

✝ Dorothy Nelle-Camus

February 6, 1937- September 26, 2003

God's beloved daughter, Dotty, has peacefully joined her Creator in Paradise.
Please join her parents Charito and Jim (✝), husband Louie,
children Liza, Albert (✝), Tina, John and Bubi,
sisters Betty, Carroll, Ginny and Eli,
brother Jimmy, and in-laws Pedro (✝), Maria Luisa (✝), Pocholo, Chiqui, Baby and Bubi
and their families in prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.
Her remains will be at the Lower Chapel of St. James the Greater Parish,
Ayala Alabang Village on Sunday, September 28, 2003.
A Memorial Mass will be held at 11:00 a.m., to be followed by the interment.

Please omit flowers. Donations to Gawad Kalinga would be appreciated.

IN MEMORIAM

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OF OUR DEARLY BELOVED

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21 November 1915 - 27 September 2002

"In my Father's house there are many rooms, and I go to prepare a place for you. I shall come again and take you to me, that where I am, you also may be" John 14 2:3

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered at the following Churches:

Christ the King, *E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City*	6:30 AM
St. Joseph's Convent, *New Manila, Quezon City*	6:00 AM
St. Thomas Moore, *Glenfield, Auckland, New Zealand*	5:30 PM
Church of the Holy Trinity, *Tampines, Singapore*	6:00 AM
Church of St. Peter, *Shanghai, China*	5:00 PM
Church of the Blessed Sacrament, *Sta. Cruz, Manila*	8:00 AM
Redemptorist Church, *Baclaran, Paraq City*	8:00 AM
San Isidro Labrador, *Novaliches, Quezon City*	5:30 PM Sept. 27
and	7:30 AM Sept. 28

Our many thanks to all who keep her in their memory.
Chito, Junior and Medy, Mark, PJ, Edith and Rosel

THE AUGUSTINIAN SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION

Request you to recommend to God
in your prayers and sacrifices
the soul of our dear

SISTER REMEDIOS MACAPAGAL VERGARA, OSA

who passed away on September 25, 2003
at the age of 89.

May she rest in Peace!

Funeral Mass will be on Saturday, September 27, 2003 at 8:00 a.m. at the La Consolacion Convent Chapel, 273 Santolan Road, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Interment will follow at the La Loma Cemetery immediately after the Mass

SOLOMON AREVALO SAPRID

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 25, 2003 at the age of 86.

His loving wife **CONSUELO**; children **Adidh**, **Annie**, **Wen**, **Yoyong**, **Lucy** & **Pearlie** and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation details to be announced later.

BUSINESS

Asean electronics sector dev't plan sought

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY has called on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) to hasten the crafting of a development plan for the electronics industry to boost the trading of these products in the region.

During an Asean forum on the electronics industry held last Aug. 28 in Makati, industry members from Asean member-countries said trade facilitation was a major concern of businessmen in trading electronics.

In particular, forum participants said the complex customs procedures and shipment modalities were among the biggest problems hounding trade.

The Philippine government considers the need to solve these problems as immediate because of the country's dependence on the electronics sector for export revenue.

"The action plan (for the electronics industry development) aims to make third party investors and traders see Asean as a truly integrated platform in doing business in electronics," Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II said in a statement.

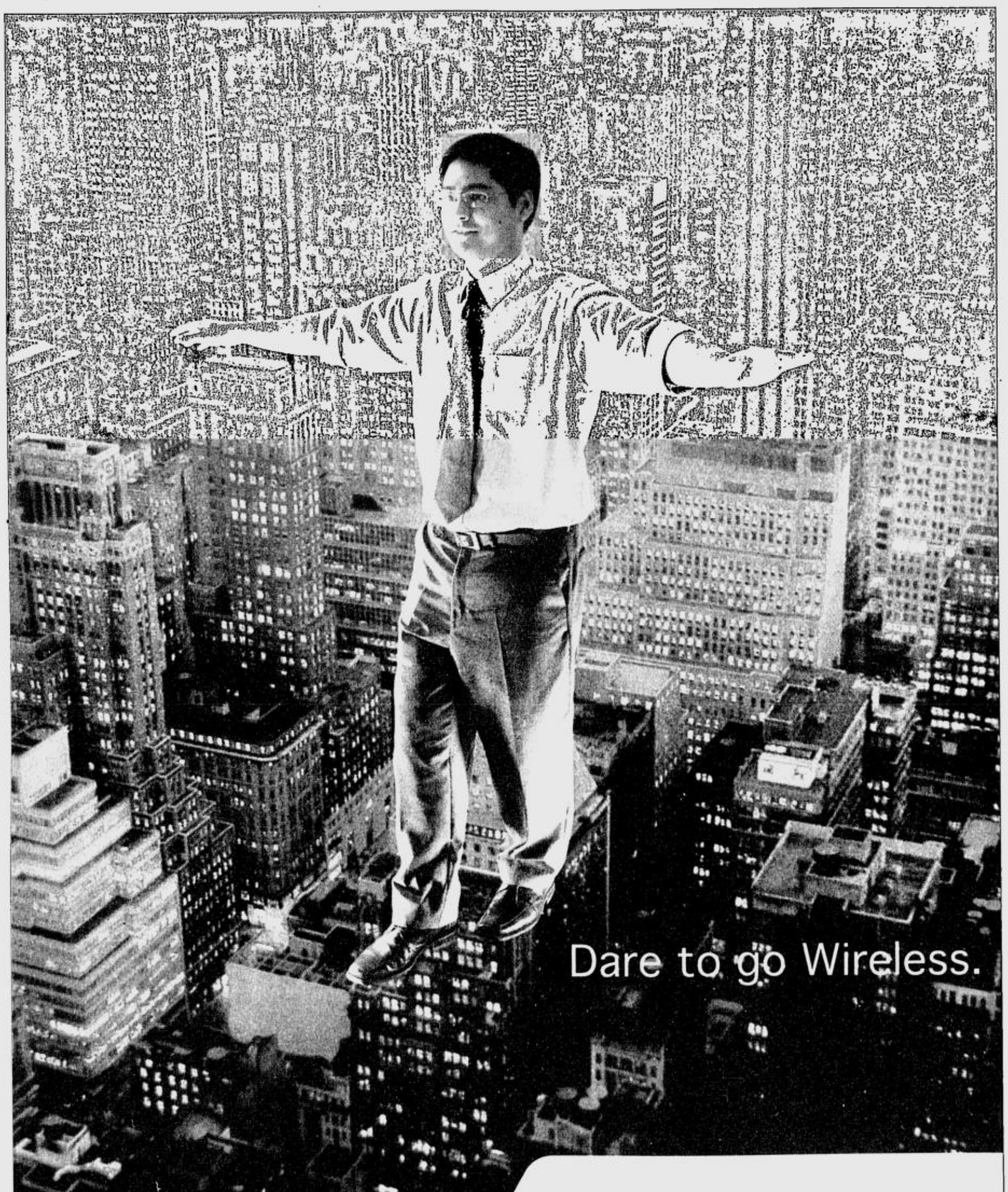
The suggested components of the development plan for electronics trade are as follows: fast-tracking of the export and import documentation system; a 24/7 customs operations in Asean; harmonized customs procedures; review of non-tariff measures; improved supply chain management system and enhancement of shipping modalities.

"In the region, our products should not compete against each other but rather complement or supplement in order to meet the challenge being posed by the electronics industry of China. Thus, there is a need to identify and strengthen core competencies of Asean members," he said.

Other recommendations to strengthen electronics industries of Asean members are to make subcontracting and outsourcing more accessible, to establish a shared facility for small and medium enterprises development and the creation of the Asean Electronics Federation, among others. The Asean Electronics Federation will act as a one-stop shop for foreign investors thinking of doing business in Asean countries.

The Philippines, being tasked to spearhead the development of the electronics sector in the Asean region, is currently identifying policy and operational issues that could come out of the development plan for electronics.

ROXAS



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BizDSL BUSINESS

NTC to hold consultations on cable TV program tiering

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission is set to conduct consultations on the possibility of implementing packaged or tiered programming for the local cable television industry.

NTC Deputy Commissioner Jorge Sarmiento said in an interview that while tackling the concerns of cable operators and foreign program providers, the issue of program tiering also came up because of the rampant problem of piracy.

"That (tiering) will be another subject that we can look at. We'll conduct more consultations on that so we can find out what's good for the industry," he told reporters.

With tiering, cable operators will package their channels in such a way that not all channels in their system will be available to all subscribers at a flat rate.

The higher the price of the package, the more programs it contains, including some channels that are considered "premium."

Some cable operators, particularly those in the provinces, are already offering tiered programming. These include cable firms operating in Cagayan de Oro, Iligan, Quezon, Angeles City and San Fernando in Pampanga, and Olongapo.

The Philippine Cable Television Association (PCTA), the umbrella organization to which the country's leading cable firms belong, is also espousing tiered programming to its members and to other cable firms as well.

PCTA said program tiering was the "natural evolution" of the cable television industry. It would not only help cable operators get rid of illegal subscribers, it would also prevent damage that illegal taps could cause on cable lines.

Also, Hollywood-based Motion Picture Association (MPA) and the 120-member Cable and Satellite Broadcasting Association of Asia (Casbaa), both organizations represent foreign program providers, agreed that tiered programming was the best way to eliminate piracy in the cable television industry.

Court junks case vs BSP officials

THE COURT of Appeals has dismissed an administrative complaint filed against Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas officials by former Urban Bank president Teodoro Borlongan.

The CA reversed an earlier decision of the Ombudsman suspending four BSP officials for "simple neglect in the closure of Urban Bank," thereby upholding the appeal of BSP officials to set aside the suspension.

The Ombudsman previously ruled that BSP Deputy Governor Alberto V. Reyes, managing director Dolores Yuvienco, director Candon Guerrero and retired director Tomas Aure should be suspended for one month and one day.

The CA said that: "At a time when indecision and hesitation have become the order of the day in our society and government, the decisiveness shown by the petitioners in this case shows that our people have not yet lost the political will to enforce the law and protect the public interest beyond personal ties or convenience. Many more acts of silent heroism among our civil servants might be needed before we can finally rise above Gunmar Myrdal's lasting criticism of the soft state."

The CA declared that Borlongan had taken extraordinary effort to expose, malign and destroy the SES reports. His tirades fail to convince us?"

"Neither gross or simple neglect or avoidance of duty characterizes the acts of the petitioners. What we see instead is a prompt and decisive action by our public officials commensurate with the gravity or seriousness of the situation that started to form in the afternoon of April 25. The SES (BSP's Supervision and Examination Sector) reports were anything but haphazardly or negligently made. They were a compendium of long years of monitoring by the BSP of a problem bank, and assembled over a period of 15 hours after the petitioners were instructed to do so," the CA said.

ÉLAN

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Eight powers

... plus a midsummer night's shoot, psychic income and world transformation

By Marge C. Enriquez

THE ENCOURAGING feedback to last issue's editorial, "Cycle of Giving and Taking" (ÉLAN, Sept. 13) is proof that there is a demand for more profound reading.

Previously, the words "meditation" and "spirituality" were taboo subjects as they were sometimes associated with the supernatural, the occult, religious fanaticism, blind faith, or airy-fairy ideas. Conservatives would have dismissed these matters as "hokey." But the time has come for inspirational journalism. Even consumer items have of late been using spirituality or meditation as a marketing tack, and the result has been met with great success. However, most of these marketers display a superficial understanding of the terms.

To start with, there is nothing arcane about spirituality; its very definition is down-to-earth. It simply means to be mindful of values that we need to live by, to be clear about our purpose and how this stage can be mirrored everyday. Its intent is to make us more effective, by helping us refine both our attitude and behavior.

What gives us the strength to direct our life so that we get more out of it?

B.K. Jayanti's book, "God's Healing Power" is a cornucopia of quotable quotes on the subject of shaping our fate. One of my favorite chapters talks about the eight powers of the self.

To withdraw. "When I am faced with... active hostility, there is great strength in becoming introverted."

To pack up. "I recognize the damage caused by such waste (thoughts)... and put an end to it."

To tolerate. "Firstly, I have to be very clear about my own contribution to a difficult situation. Secondly, if I happen to be in a situation where there is continual assault, understanding (and compassion towards others) will contribute to my power... to accept it, or walk away from it in peace. Thirdly, a culture of tolerance is actually a culture of forgiveness."

To accommodate. "Having a heart so big and generous that I am able to rise above all differences of character and personality."

To face. "When there is real understanding of the original qualities of every soul... it becomes possible to stand firm against wrongdoing."

To discern. "Truth is not just an intellectual idea, but an experience of the heart."

To decide. "(I am) free from prejudice arising from superficial appearances, above the influence of situations and the emotions and opinions of others."

To cooperate. "The future of the world... depends on this transformation in each one of us, from ego and self-aggrandizement to humility, respect."

Theatrical

You might be wondering, what is the Moro Lorenzo gym doing in ÉLAN? It is a perfect example of philanthropy. Except for our agriculture secretary, nothing much is heard of the Lorenzos who own several industries, among them Del Monte. Their support helped put up the most modern sports facility in the country, right in Ateneo. They hoped that this environment would be conducive to breeding world-class athletes.

Word got around about their generosity, and soon other millionaires wanted to match that with their own donations to the Ateneo team, and to sports in general. It's a perfect example of the can-do attitude, without the politics and bureaucracy.

A couple of pictorials in this issue were major production numbers, each on a threadbare budget. First was a lifestyle shoot of model units, managed by Ayala Land Inc. Bored of shooting furniture and finishings, the editorial team set out to do a lifestyle story about this businesswoman who lives in Ayala Alabang but has a luxury condo in Makati so that she can freshen up between business and socials. It is a trend among the affluent residents who live in the suburbs to buy pied-a-terres in the central business districts. They live there on workdays and go to their big homes on weekends.

We asked **Rina Go** of Viseversa to style the model, and **Tony Padilla** of Floral Designs to put life into the units that were decorated with artificial flowers (his arrangements are characterized by movement, strong lines). Chef **Rolando Laudico**, who does private catering, created a luncheon that was a symphony of flavors. This is architecture photographer **Ava Lugtu's** first shoot for ÉLAN, done in collaboration with **Albert Avellana** who has an unerring eye for visuals.

The second was a fashion shoot at the Star Theater. Although I had long forgotten Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," the characters of Puck and Titania came to mind. I thought of a dancer on a harness, playing pranks on the model. In case you haven't read the script, watched the play, ballet or opera, Puck is a mythical character and Titania is Queen of the Fairies.

I asked the younger designers for their versions of Puck and Titania. **Lya Armovit** has expanded into the bridal market. Young guns **Mel Vergel de Dios, Ivalurski Aseron** and **Joey Samson** are known for fearless designs. The clothes have absolutely no reference to classical characters. I didn't want to go literal by recreating the forest scene where the characters meet.

The editorial team worked closely to evoke a feeling of fantasy despite the spare lighting and absence of sets. After all, Puck summarizes that all the action on that eternal midsummer night may have been nothing "but a dream."

This was a tougher shoot because it needed a production team—**Douglas Nierras** to supervise the aerial choreography, dancer **Marvin Naadat** to play Puck, **Michelle Rodrigo** to organize the harness (plus four workers to hoist the dancer), **Jay Aranda** for lighting, **Dennis Tan** for the transformation of the models and some accessorizing from Hemm Jewelry by Hans Brumann, to polish the looks.

The shoot resulted in a perfect blend of photography and digital imaging. Graphic designer **Meow Ferrer** of Ikon was impressed with the images created by photographer **Wig Tysmans**, which maintained the integrity of the lighting and composition. The digital artist's job was to create the sets so that ÉLAN didn't have to rent fog machines, extra theater lights, a projector and screen for the background.

And the remuneration for our labor-intensive shoots: Ever heard of "psychic income"?

Synchronicity

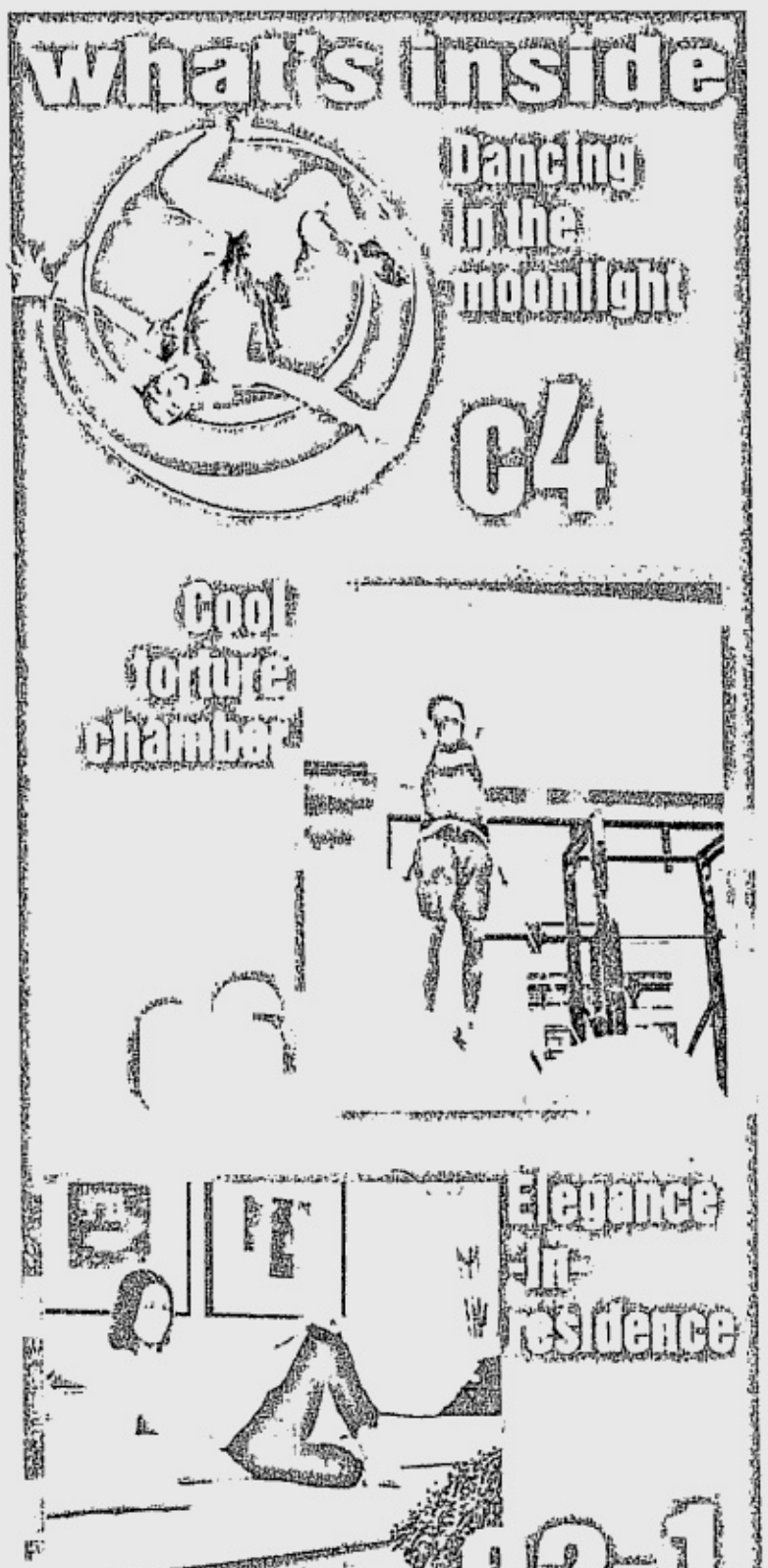
After we finished our Puck-and-Titania pictorial, **Ana Bitong** invited me to watch Repertory Theater's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the RCBC Plaza. **Zeneida Amador's** version was succinct and likeable, even to a generation hooked on MTVs and murdered English. The complicated subplots in her production of this comedy about disparate elements—real people and fairies, aristocrats and plebeians—were well balanced. The normally lengthy play ran for two hours, with a brief intermission. It was light and engaging; the younger ones were laughing at Shakespeare's humor. The exemplary acting kept the audience riveted.

Joy Virata looked eternally youthful as Titania. **Jamie Wilson's** energetic interpretation of Bottom was faithful to the complexity of the character—a boor but a lady killer, an egoist with a reality check. Ana's Helena was luminous.

When she's not rehearsing or helping her sister in Fila, Ana is enthusiastic about writing. Read her essay on how to be famous: If you are not scandal-prone like **Kris Aquino**, self-promotion is the thing.

For Ana, writing is rewarding—again if you're just after psychic income.

What's inside



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Days & nights of music

What drives this 28-year-old impresario and inveterate dreamer?

By Mozart Pastrano
Contributor

CREATING a buzz in Manila's close-knit arts circuit is a 28-year-old impresario. His name is Martin E.Z. Lopez. (The initials stand for his middle names Emile Zamora.)

In February this year, he presented the Philippine debut of Aileen Chanco, a Filipino-born, Julliard-educated pianist who earlier received the United States' "Presidential Scholar in the Arts" award.

Described as "an attractively impetuous sort of soloist" by the Boston Globe, she played with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, which was likewise making a debut, at its new home, the Philam Life Theater on UN Avenue.

Two months later, Lopez invaded the San Beda Abbey, where he organized a Lenten concert featuring the Hiraya Men's Chorus and the San Beda College Chorale, with special guests Audie Gemora and balikbayan soprano Thea Tadiar.

Just last month, Lopez put 14 women on the same stage: the Vienna-trained pianist and harpist Lourdes de Leon-Gregorio; the all-female Athenaeum String Quartet; the all-female Musikalinangan, a *kulintang* ensemble; and four sopranos—the jet-setting Tadiar; Toronto-based Lilac Caña; Rachelle Gerodias who, this year, became the first female to win the Aliw Award for classical music; and Eileen Fernandez, a blind multiplegic teenager from the Divine Mercy Mobile Center of Music and Arts Therapy, a beneficiary of the concert.

At the moment, while cooking up a free Christmas show featuring the Mandaluyong Children's Chorus and tenor Nelson Caruncho (Dec. 14 at the Francisco Santiago Hall of Equitable PCIB), Lopez is already preparing for a February 2004 concert at the main theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) showcasing the phenomenal 24-year-old blind Filipino pianist and tenor Carlos Ibay, who's based in Virginia in the US although still studying in New York.

Niche

"While we Filipinos excel in pop music, we also have many *kababayans* who are world-class performers of classical music, and that's my niche," Lopez said during an interview at his spacious, well-appointed home in San Juan.

It is the home of his grandparents, Vicente Jr. and Maria Rita. "My granddad is a double first cousin of Eugenio Lopez Sr.," the impresario let on. "Two brothers married two sisters, and the next generation ended up being related to each other on both sides of the family."

His mother Maria Elena, he said, "has been living in the US for the longest time, and so I grew up with my grandparents and two aunts."

Although he and his younger sister Rosanna would spend summers with their mom, now the associate director of the Harvard Family Research Project, a think-tank that advises the US Congress, and their stepdad Rob Franklin, an academic based at Stanford University, the two children consider their grandparents' tree-shaded abode in the Philippines their home.

"In fact, I still sleep with my grandparents in their bedroom," Lopez confided. "I grew up surrounded with artwork and my grandparents would always bring me to musical concerts."

His granddad was brought up in a musical family. "He played the violin and the cello," Lopez said. "He and his siblings formed a strings quartet, which played in public and in private homes. It rubbed off on me."

Throughout his grade school years at Xavier School in Mandaluyong, Lopez took lessons under the UST piano teacher Aida Sanz Gonzalez. His granddad would egg him on to perform with the family strings quartet. At one point, the young pianist had a recital at the Philam Life Theater—now his favorite concert hall as impresario, "because it has arguably the best acoustics in town."

Double major

Lopez brought his piano pieces with him when he enrolled at Connecticut College in New London in the US East Coast. Not only did he brave a double major (Economics and Asian Studies); he also had a double minor, International Relations and Chinese.

"I wanted to continue my Chinese language classes at Xavier, although I had to relearn a lot of the basics, because the pedagogy was different," he said. Of course, he was learning not just the language but also a multidisciplinary mix of Chinese economics, politics, history, and art history.

Realizing there's nothing like living in a country to learn its language and culture, Lopez embarked on an eight-month immersion trip to China during his college years. He cross-enrolled at the Harbin Institute of Technology, at the northeasternmost province of China.

"Harbin is pretty much Manchuria already," he said. "It was bordering Russia, and if the borders were open at the time, it would have been easier to go to Russia than it would be to go to Beijing." Harbin folk would greet each other, "Privyet," the Russian word for "hello," he recalled.

There he studied business and economics—in Chinese—while teaching English to a handful of six-and-seven-year-olds. Eventually, the parents took the lessons as well.

"No matter where you are in the world, you'll find a Filipino," he chuckled. "There happened to be a big factory of Asia Brewery in the area, and I became friends with the Filipinos there."

Asian awareness

Back at Connecticut College, Lopez began to lead the Asian-American students' association. They debated political issues, showed Asian films, presented Asian performers, and held lectures with guest Asian personalities—and went on field trips to the United Nations and the Asia Society in New York City.

Once, he was tasked with organizing the celebration of Asian Awareness Month (April) on campus, featuring Asian women in the arts. "I surprised them by bringing in Evelyn Mandac, the only Filipino soprano to ever have sung at the Metropolitan Opera in New York—with a Japanese woman pianist accompanying her," Lopez beamed.

This was a turning point for him. He was no longer playing the piano at the time, and he realized he was really good at putting together arts events like this.

"Upon graduation, I worked for a leading consultancy firm in the US," he recounted, "but I also organized Filipino food fairs, exhibits featuring Filipino artists, *kundiman* concerts, and screenings of contemporary Filipino films like Marilou Diaz-Abaya's 'Rizal.'"

The high point came during the Philippine Independence Day festivities in Massachusetts in 2000, when he engineered an evening at the Boston Symphony Hall. Filipino flutist Ildefonso Lauron played as guest soloist of the internationally renowned Boston Pops conducted by the equally famous composer John Williams ("E.T." and "Superman" soundtracks).

"The Filipino community came in full force, wearing *barongs* and *baro't saya*. When the orchestra played the "Pambansang Awit," I felt very proud."

Coming home

In no time at all, he was packing his things and heading back to Manila. "I always knew deep in my heart that I'd come back, because this is home. It's the Philippines I will help and support and give contributions to. This is where I belong, where my roots are."

"Besides," he said, "my grandparents are getting older. No matter what happens, I still want to be near them. I could not live with myself had something happened to them while I was away, or if I was not able to make the most of their golden years."

Now he produces evening concerts of classical music while pursuing a corporate career.

"I would rather work behind the scenes and hop onstage only to give flowers to my artists at curtain call," he said.

The last time he performed onstage was as a student actor for a high school production of "Carousel" at Xavier. His role required him to be slapped in the face. On opening night he tried to duck from the slap, but the floor turned out to be slippery, so he crashed to the floor, knocking out a microphone stand. "It was a very embarrassing debut, and I never performed onstage again."

These days he doesn't have to go onstage to make his presence felt. Aside from the music events he organizes as an independent impresario, Lopez just happens to have been elected as a member of the board of trustees of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. "I'm the youngest member ever," he quipped. In fact, he chairs the annual CCP auction this November, featuring works by leading visual artists.

As the interview wrapped up, he talked about his one big dream for Philippine art and culture.

"I would like to restore the Manila Metropolitan Theater as a premier opera house. It won't happen overnight, of course. But we need to fill our days with good music. It could be our only salvation, this God-given musicality of Filipinos."

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

"THE LAST Five Years," written by Jason Robert Brown, debunks the mythical equation that one is only half a person without love, and that only marriage will make one whole.

Through songs, the audience visits the inner world of Jamie and Cathy who, instead of complementing one another after the initial romance, start having expectations. These erode the bond, and eventually the love becomes mixed with hate. They clash, sadly, and eventually split up.

'The Last Five Years' resonated with the spectators so well, they fell silent. And silent they stayed

The lesson is universal: In a search to fill up a vacuum, we are likely to delude ourselves with unsuitable partners and set ourselves up for frustration.

Actors' Actors Inc. is dedicated to producing works that not only evoke serious thinking and intelligent humor, but also challenge world-class talents to interpret them. Director Bart Guingona's approach with "The Last Five Years" was to take the audience on a journey into the labyrinth of the characters' idiosyncracies, bringing them face to face with reality.

With two young "veterans" (this is the era of down-aging) showcasing extensive vocal range and lung power, the AAI production achieved its goal.

Audie Gemora and Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo played the ill-fated couple, providing the audience with thoughtfully layered moods, balancing the distraught with the heartfelt. Although their relationship was recounted in different time frames—Jamie's viewpoint was chronological, Cathy's digressed—the paths were clear. Every memory was recalled with accurate nuances, revealing the fragility of a relationship based solely on emotions.

For 90 minutes, the actors held the audiences' attention with their power-packed, smooth and sustained trilling, which reverberated throughout the Carlos P. Romulo Theater. The earnest acting, exquisitely supported by a chamber group, apparently resonated really well with the spectators, so that they soon fell into hushed silence.

And silent they stayed.

Guingona was clearly able to access all the theater magic and talent available to him. Most striking was the white, sculptural backdrop depicting the city skyline, designed by Gino Gonzales, with video projections on the picture window.

The understated multi-media approach was a visual statement, providing ambience without distraction. John Batalla's vivid lighting designs complemented the colors of the costumes by Marden Iglesias and Jesus Lloren. For a minute there it seemed he was lighting a fashion show or pictorial. How ingenious—tapping two well-known designers to underscore the characters' being lousy dressers.

Overall though, the message was about the danger of walking down the road to extreme disappointment, the medium was deftly used to take local theater in the opposite direction.

Quintessential couturier

By Marge C. Enriquez

FEW THINGS could be more glaring than the headline "Haute Couture Personified" referring to a young designer's merchandise priced from P345 to P4,600. The copywriter for this advertorial about a mobile phone service was totally clueless about fashion.

By definition, haute couture garments are made to suit a single wearer, and are as expensive as luxury cars and condos. The fabrics come from exclusive sources, the construction process is technical, and everything is handsewn.

The only reference to clothing in the advertorial was the designer's recommendation of white cotton shirt and jeans. There is nothing haute about cotton and denim, considering their populist origins. Obviously, the department store collection shares the same suppliers as the rest of the fashion designers here and the clothes—subcontracted to factories that use standard sizing—are assembled by sewing machines.

Couture is done in the designer's workroom with skilled craftsmen.

In the Philippine fashion scene, Ramon Valera is one of the rare designers (or arguably the singular designer) who might be labeled "haute couture personified." Although he sourced materials from Hong Kong for his major collections, he also used exclusively woven fabrics such as alaskin and *piña*. More important, he embodied perfection in craftsmanship and proportion, the very hallmark of couture.

What made Valera a couturier?

He never used a flat pattern, and he never allowed his clients to dictate to him. He always studied the fabric's full potential and applied it to his desired silhouette. He shaped and manipulated the fabric by hand. In that era when fitting was de rigueur, the client came back to try the outfit (with the underpinnings), which was then basted and fitted and modified until Valera got the envisioned results.

His handwork and attention to detail cannot be imitated today. Valera was known to replicate the design of a wearer's necklace onto the gown, to achieve continuity in motif. Beads and stones were uniformly spaced; not a single element was out of line. Every richly embellished gown was surprisingly lightweight. The appliqués and flowers were exquisitely made with machinelike precision by sewers. This labor-intensive endeavor required four to eight people working through five days. Today, designers have it easy by getting them readymade.

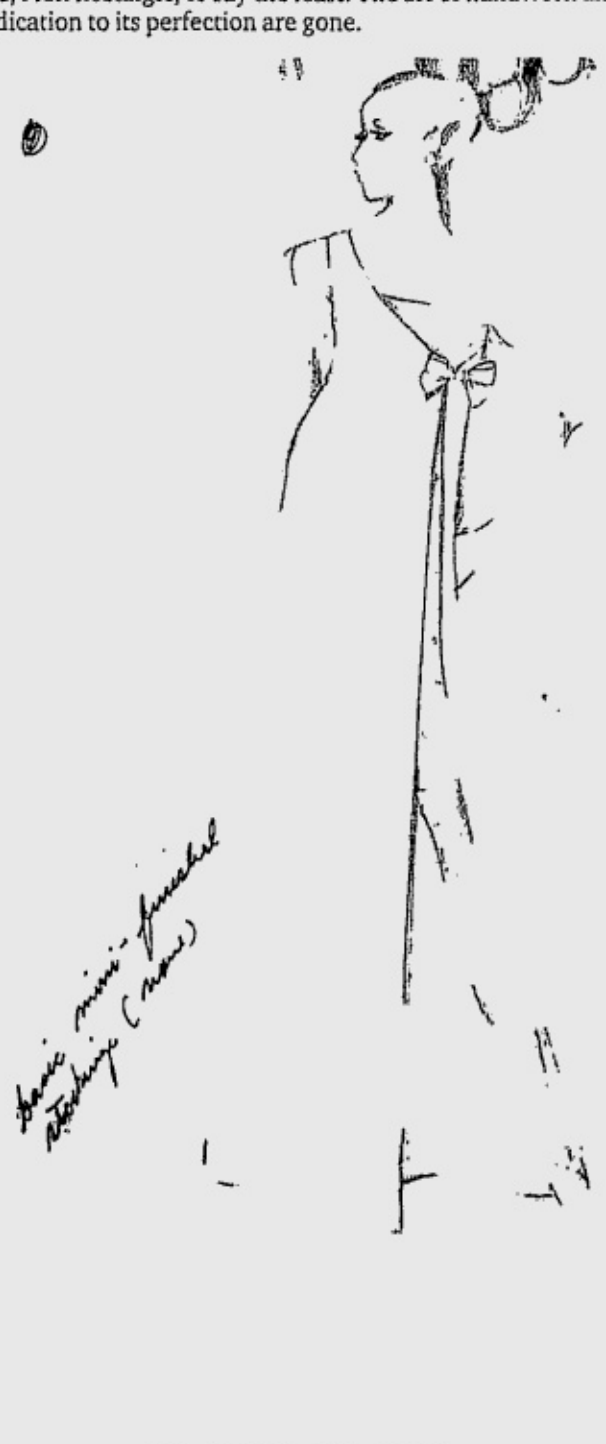
The Valera retrospective at the National Museum reveals how the legendary designer exemplified the couture techniques of his time, and how he borrowed ideas from the European couturiers and made them his own. Spanish designer Cristobal Balenciaga was impressed with the Filipino's understanding of a fabric's qualities, perfection of line and elegant simplicity. The Balenciaga influence was visible in the architectural quality of Valera's sleeves.

It is said that Valera was also influenced by Balenciaga's precept, "No one can make (a woman) chic if she is not chic herself." He was said to be very particular about his choice of clients, that he turned down then First Lady Eva Macapagal because she didn't fit his fashion ideal. The Vera-Perezes had to cajole him to make an outfit for Nora Aunor.

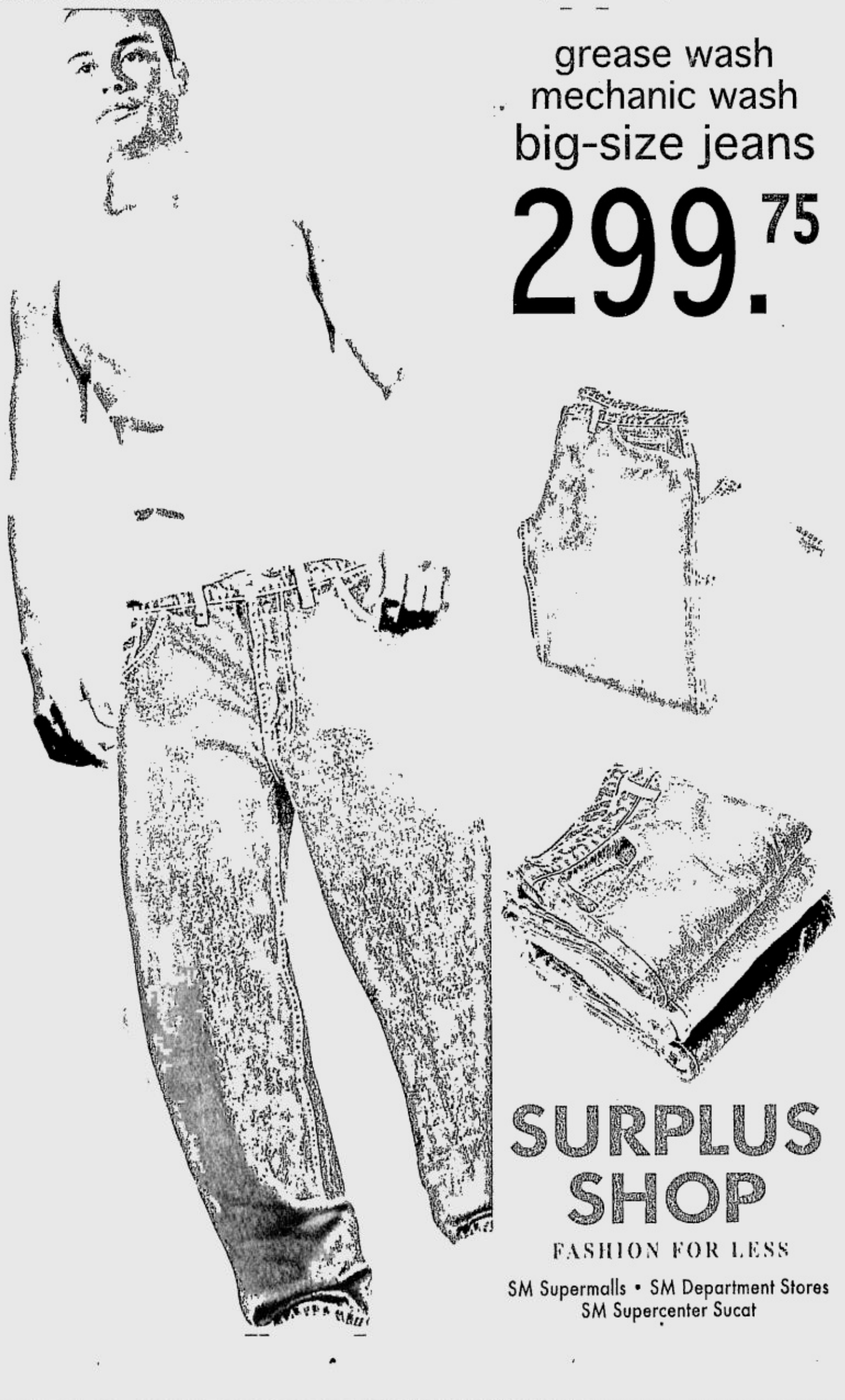
Valera closely followed fashion trends in the West as illustrated by his interpretation of Dior's New Look—soft shoulders, tiny waists and bell skirts—and Yves St Laurent's hobble skirts. The medallion embroidery on Fe Dolor Serrano's *terno* and the ruched, crisscrossed shawl on Priscilla Sison's, were influenced by Dior's Marc Bohan at the time. Baby Fores' beaded vest, belt and cuffs worn over a severe black gown were inspired by YSL's African collection that featured shells and stones gathered to cover the bosom and hips.

Another YSL influence was Valera's penchant for the symmetrical arrangement of two bows, on the shoulders or on the sleeves. YSL's leopard-sequinned evening coat inspired Valera to make an evening gown of the same animal design beadwork for Elvira Manahan. The drapery on Gloria Romero's white terno and Josefina Eusebio's charmeuse *terno* were references to Madame Alix Gres' fluid folds and pleating that sculpted the body.

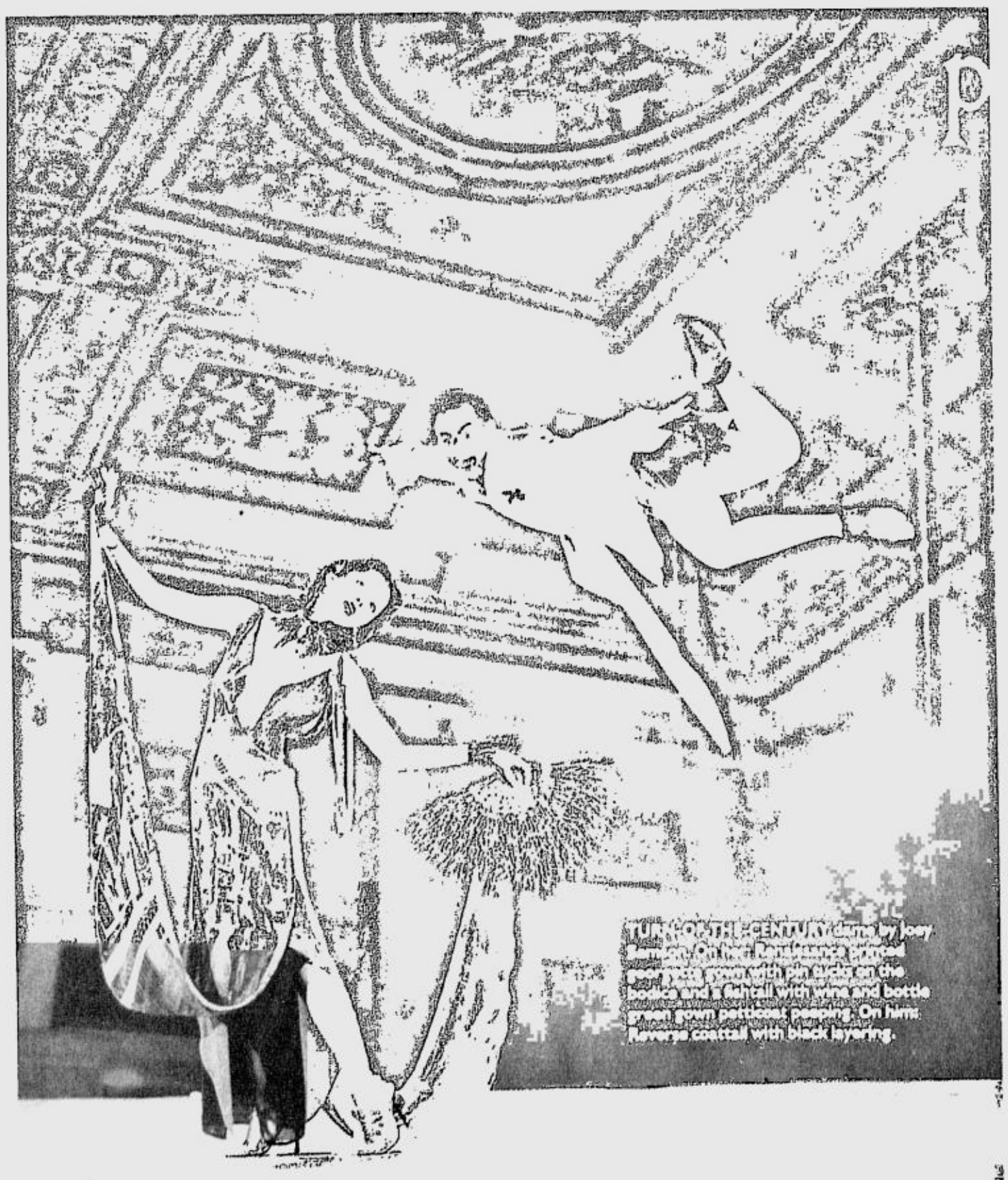
When, at the Valera restrospective, I saw the bustles, embroidered trains, fine hand embroidery, lace on lace appliqués, embellished insertions, and elaborate supports to mold the silhouette, I felt nostalgic, to say the least. The art of handwork and the dedication to its perfection are gone.



BEAUTY AND THE BARD by Mel Vergel de Dios. On her: Crushed, fitted bodice and draped gown in silk chiffon. On him: Padded doublet made of velvet decorated with gold threads and buttons, accentuated shoulders, with lace collar and gilt-trimmed sleeves paired with bloomers.



MOONLIGHT SERENADE by Lya Armovit. On her: duchesse satin gown with boning and a deep back, accentuated with crystal beadwork. On him: Stretch lycra shirt with gold vine appliqués and tights.



THE POST-MODERN ERA (1970-1990) dress by Joey Arias. On her: Deconstructed bridal gown with plastic cups on the bodice and a fishnet with rhinestone and bottle cap detail. Petticoat peeking out. On him: Reverse contrast with black layering.

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VENETIAN COURTESAN by Ivar Aseron. On her: Deconstructed, corseted gown, characterized by exposed boning and seams with dotted tulle skirt. On him: Herringbone waistcoat with lace cravat.

Photos by Wig Tysmans • Choreography by Douglas Nierras
Pictorial direction by Antonio Salac Santos
Digital imaging by Meow Ferrer and Sandy Fleria

Models: Amina Aranaz, Isabel Roces, Marvin Nazdat
Lighting design: Jay Aranda
Hair and makeup: Dennis Tan
Makeup: Chanel Fall-Winter 2003
Harness: Michelle Rodrigo
Location: Star Theater
Special thanks to Fred and Lisa Macuja-Elizalde, Rina Veloso
Digital imaging by I-kon, Manila, Unit 4-6 Sunshine Condominium, 9633 Kamagong S, Makati City, Tel. 899-2445

SAMSUNG DigitAll Hope

Samsung and Don Bosco:
Working hand in hand for today's youth

SAMSUNG DigitAll hope

The Don Bosco students render a heart-warming performance during the awarding ceremonies.

The Filipino youth holds a special place in the heart of the Salesian Society of St. John Bosco. For many years, this organization has dedicated itself to improving the lives of the poor children in many parts of the country by establishing various schools, youth centers, vocational training centers, parishes and home for street children depending on the needs.

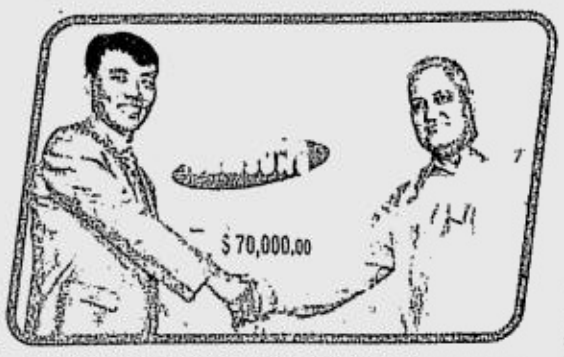
Don Bosco students look forward to upgrading their learning skills.

Not so long ago, Don Bosco Technical Institute-Makati, through the support of Consuelo Foundation Inc., pilot tested the adaptation of e-learning in its technical-vocational training programs. The program consists of four main components: (1) to equip the different Don Bosco Schools and Training Centers with the required equipment, facilities and network infrastructure to implement e-learning in their classes; (2) strengthen the capability of the province in the development of coursewares by complementing the existing courseware development facility with additional equipment and tools; (3) equip the trainors of the different Don Bosco Training Centers with the skills and competence in the use of e-learning systems and; (4) develop customized coursewares for Don Bosco Training Centers which would also be made available to other technical vocational training centers locally and internationally.

But in order for it to gain more ground in developing the youth, it needs funding from people and organizations who share Don Bosco's dream.

Enter Samsung DigitAll Hope

One such company is global technology leader Samsung Electronics, which has always stood by its conviction that the youth should develop a proficiency in science and technology (S&T). Admittedly, S&T is considered the most important factor for national economic growth and a source of competitive advantage in today's modern world. Samsung's commitment to the youth is an enduring part of the company's corporate social responsibility to make a lasting social contribution.



Samsung Electronics Philippines president Sang Youl Eom and Don Bosco deputy provincial delegate for technical vocation education Bro. Jose Maria Ferrer pose for posterity during Samsung's presentation of the US$70,000 check to the Salesians of Don Bosco.

Just this year, Samsung launched its youth-themed Samsung DigitAll Hope program in Australia, Singapore, India, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines. The regional social program will divide US$600,000 among various organizations from eight countries supporting the use of technology to improve the lives of youth and help bridge the digital divide. The theme for 2003 is "Live Your Dream," which will focus on fulfilling the dreams of young people.

"In Samsung DigitAll Hope, youth is the focus because those aged 15-24 represent a large segment of the overall population in the Asian region at almost 20%. This region has given the company such great success and the youth here, with so many ambitions, dreams and aspirations, should be given the chance to achieve greatness," Samsung Electronics Philippines president Sang Youl Eom said.

As part of the grant selection process, Samsung consulted national youth agencies throughout the region, UNICEF and UNESCO to identify organizations matching Samsung's 2003 program objectives. Additionally, Samsung appointed an independent judging committee to evaluate the grant applications. Charities, non-government organizations, educational institutions and development institutes were considered for monetary and product awards while ongoing and newly founded youth projects were considered for grants.

More than a hundred applications, with 10 coming from the Philippines, underwent the rigid screening process of the Samsung DigitAll Hope 2003 regional judging committee. The applications were judged according to program objective, impact, sustainability of the program, responsiveness, creativity and innovation, implementation of the program, and efficiency, practicality and resourcefulness.

The country's winning entry

During the final judging, the Salesian Society of St. John Bosco's project proposal of integrating e-learning into their training centers for the marginalized youth became the Philippines' winning entry to the Samsung DigitAll Hope, placing second behind India. With the US$70,000 funding coming from Samsung DigitAll Hope, this project will be implemented across six (6) Don Bosco Training Centers in Luzon including: Don Bosco Mandaluyong, Don Bosco Makati, Don Bosco Tondo, Don Bosco Pampanga, Don Bosco Nueva Ecija, and Don Bosco Canlubang.

"When we looked at what was being done in our region on a social level by large corporations, we realized that much more was needed. I anticipate Samsung DigitAll Hope's contribution to the Don Bosco project will promote the use of information technology among the youth and perhaps influence other companies to get involved in social programs as well," Samsung Electronics Philippines president Sang Youl Eom said.

Mr. Eom delivers his inspirational speech to the students.

Finally, a home-grown venture

By Meluchi A. Rivera
Contributor

GEORGE PUA. Kwang Tong is his latest stake in the local food industry, following the sucess of three international franchises.

BRAISED sea cucumber with abalone mushroom

BEEF tenderloin with Chinese tomato sauce

THE MAN behind the successful local franchises of Tony Roma's, Thai Barbeque and Macau Restaurant admits that his motivation for going into the business was pure vested interest.

George Pua had enjoyed many unique dining experiences during his travels. And he really just wanted to have his favorite foods accessible to him at all times, so he worked on bringing some of them to Manila. "I started with no feasibility study; it was all gut feel," he recounts. "I like their food, so I brought them in."

Thus Pua acquired the local franchise for Tony Roma's in 1996, and despite the currency crisis at the time, set up Thai Barbecue (actually US-based) in 1997. In 1999, HK-based Macau Restaurant opened its Manila doors in what was then a sparsely-developed Eastwood City. All three enjoyed immediate popularity and, through the years, managed to keep their loyal customers.

Not bad for someone who had to learn the business on the job. Pua says he is not just a proprietor; to this day, he remains an avid patron: "I never tire of eating in my restaurants!"

Seven years into the business, Pua is still eager for new challenges and has set up his first completely home-grown concept. Kwang Tong, which serves Cantonese cuisine, opened in Glorietta 4 just two months ago.

Showcase

One can say this latest venture is closest to Pua's heart. He has made Kwang Tong a showcase not just of Hong Kong-style cuisine, but also of Chinese culture and, invariably, of his own personality.

The interiors of the 170-seat restaurant are simple, save for images from Chinese opera used in Kwang Tong's eye-catching murals, menu and posters. The affable Pua, apart from being a travel junkie, has previously dabbled in theater. "I played up the costumes because of the popularity of Chinese movies like 'Crouching Tiger' and 'Hero,'" Pua reveals. "It's all very grandiose, theatrical."

Indeed, smiling models in colorful, embroidered robes seem to beckon diners to try out the range of dimsum, noodles, soups, cold cuts, rice dishes, entrees and desserts. Kwang Tong's chef previously worked in leading Hong Kong hotels; thus the food can rival the best offered in the former Crown Colony. Prices are very reasonable.

So meticulous is the attention to quality in Kwang Tong that all the sauces and even dimsum wrappers are made in-house, from scratch. Standouts are the shrimp and scallop dumplings, beef tenderloin in Chinese tomato sauce, fried duck, and scallops in XO sauce.

The dumplings are plump and light, with a filling that is surprisingly crisp (Pua says it's because they use large prawns). The beef melts in the mouth, the fried duck is simple but succulent, and the scallops are delectable in a redolent sauce of chili, garlic and dried scallops. Best of all, whether one comes in for a quick snack or a full-out lauriat, there is no MSG buzz to deal with afterwards.

"On Sundays we're swamped with Chinese clients. The food must be good!" Pua laughs. "I get a lot of satisfaction in thinking that we've done something right because diners come back."

Kwang Tong is located at the 2nd Level of Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City; Tel Nos. 814-0945/814-0952

For love of the Filipino athlete

By Martin Valdes
Contributor

'Man consists of two parts, his mind and his body. Only, the body has more fun.'—Woody Allen

I GREW up thinking Jesuits were going to save the world. Not hard to imagine, given that I was educated Jesuit-style from day one. From elementary to college, Xavier School to Ateneo de Manila, my personal weaning was peppered with the myths and legends of this religious order.

Ignatius Loyola, one-time soldier whose life in warfare was refracted by a cannonball mishap, had gathered around him an energetic band of well-educated men who desired nothing more than to help others find God in their lives. Francis Xavier, a personal favorite, was the proto-typical roving missionary who wistfully dreamt of bringing Christ to the most foreign shores. They were not mere priests; they were adventurers who explored, suffered tragic loses and basked in astounding triumphs, fought evil and injustice with a Crucifix and obscure Latin phrases, and increased their mystique and dedication with each passing century.

For me, Jesuits were nothing less than super heroes.

Formidable

So it was no small surprise that my first thought upon glimpsing the Moro Lorenzo Sports Center, named after an exceptional alumnus, was that I had come across the fabled Hall of Justice—home to a higher form of human being. The last time I was at this very same space deep in the guts of the Ateneo de Manila University, which was several years ago while still a student, there was naught but a parking lot whose perimeter was bordered by a football field and furious vegetation straight out of "Apocalypse Now."

We used to play soccer by that lot, hoping we'd never have to venture into that heart of darkness to retrieve a wayward football. Today, there sits a building of formidable stature, a towering multi-layered, multi-purpose complex, with more than 7,000 square meters of floor space. A looming construct of glass and metal that demands equal parts of reverence and awe, it is a veritable church of game. This could have been named the Moro Lorenzo Sports Cathedral. And all I can think of is, "Where the hell was this when I was on the varsity team?"

Cool torture

The interior, of course, is even more impressive. At the heart of the complex is an official basketball court (convertible into two training courts). Adjacent to this is a floor space that can be quickly converted into badminton or volleyball courts. An alcove area in the upper floor is reserved for martial arts training. There are also several locker rooms, classrooms, a surprisingly hi-tech audio-visual room (where athletes and coaches can review past games and Baywatch reruns), an alumni room, a clinic, a small cafeteria and a merchandising store. There's even a prayer room for those who feel the need to be both buff and devout. I bet this room is fully booked before Ateneo-La Salle games.

The most extraordinary and perplexing facility, though, has to be the indoor 200-meter elevated track. I stood on the first floor looking up at athletes on the elevated track doing laps, slowly circling me like muscular vultures assessing a less-fit prey.

Did I forget to mention, they have a couple of state-of-the-art training gyms here as well? Before I go any further, let me confess that I have always had an aversion to gyms—too much similarity with medieval torture chambers for my taste, but that's just me. That said, the Moro Lorenzo Health and Fitness gym, located at the basement level and operated independently by the Blue Eagle Foundation, is one cool torture chamber.

ATHLETES recharge their spirit at the sport center's prayer room. Two-time MVP Richard Alvarez of Ateneo Blue Eagles believes that faith makes the impossible possible. PHOTOS BY J. JAVIER

> A looming construct of glass and metal that demands equal parts of reverence and awe, this veritable church of Game inside Ateneo de Manila University might have been named Moro Lorenzo Sports Cathedral

And by no stretch of the imagination is it medieval, not with a comprehensive inventory of Life Fitness cardiovascular equipment, an aerobics facility, sports medicine clinic, clean lockers, and, for those who prefer music to accompany their tribulations, a "surround sound" audio system. Students and alumni get special rates while sponsored guests are charged P1,900 a month. As of now, outsiders have to be endorsed, as opening the gym to public use may complicate management of the area. So all you health fanatics, find an Atenean and buy him a beer... make that a fruit shake.

Serious equipment

On the second floor of the complex lies the strength training gym. Now this is a gym with some serious-sounding equipment—Hammer Strength Ground Base Jammer, Ground Base Zero, Ground Base Deadlift, Vertimax, to name a few. They sound more like Mortal Kombat finishing moves. I am informed that athletes from varsity to professional levels train here to increase their muscular strength development with special programs specific to their sport. From the way the people strapped to the various machines are groaning, it seems like they're here for penance.

These machines are not cheap, and are not for everybody. Fortunately, both gyms are administered by highly competent professionals who make sure that the training is done properly, the facilities are functioning and safe, and that no one attempts the Vertimax alone.

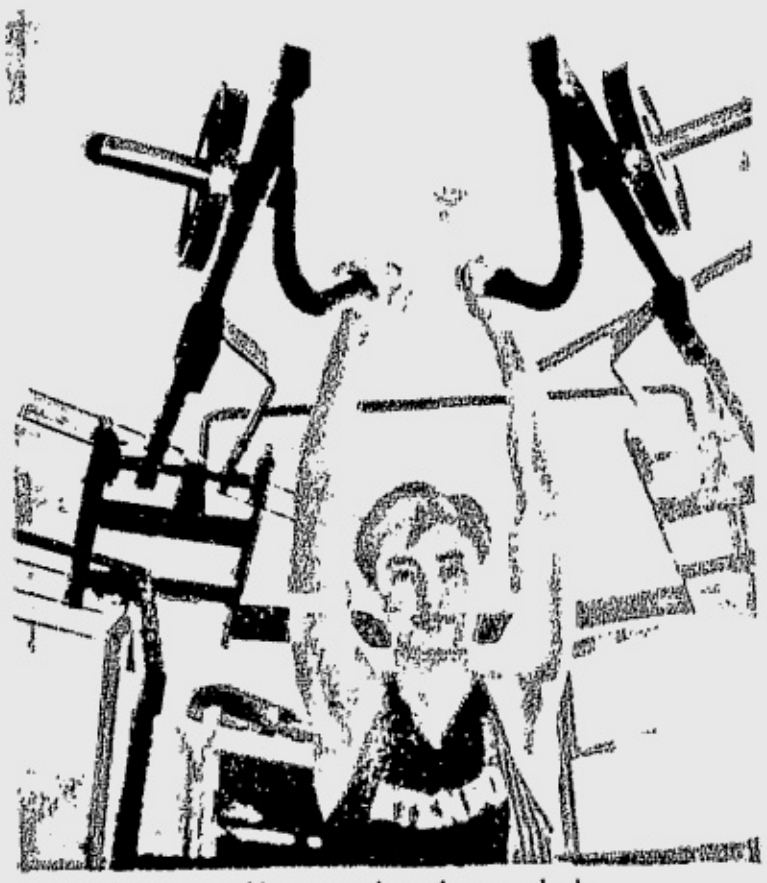
The guiding principle of the Moro Lorenzo Sports Center is *mens sana in corpore sano*—a sound mind in a sound body. This philosophy, siphoned from the Greco-Roman civilizations, has been at the forefront of athletic and academic institutions in the United States, Japan, Australia, China, Western Europe, and the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Now the Philippines has a facility of comparable value.

The vision is to create more venues such as these, where athletes can develop their potentials to the utmost. The Moro Lorenzo Sports Center is an unselfish venture whose ultimate goal is to allow athletes to develop at their own pace, and to raise the level of sports in the Philippines by providing training grounds of exceptional worth and enhancing the competitive experience with world-class facilities.

My super heroes have changed.

With so many aches and pains plaguing our nation on a daily basis, I often look to sport to alleviate the routine discomfort of feeling pathetic about myself. Nowadays, I watch Efren Reyes and Django Bustamante fight evil armed with a cue stick. Or Jennifer Rosales and Dorothy Delasin duke it out against injustice with a golf club. Or Ateneo and La Salle valiantly battle head to head in an eternal war, not against each other, but against complacence and mediocrity.

These are the heroes who remind me that things can get better, *must* get better, because, damn it, if Efren Reyes can make a shot like that, then the Filipino is worth his salt. I used to think Jesuits would save the world. Maybe so. But I know it's the Filipino athlete that is going to save the Philippines.



JAMMER power machine strengthens the upper body.

MULTI-PURPOSE gym. The Moro Lorenzo Center offers rehab, fitness, basketball, badminton and indoor track and field.

EXECUTIVE director Jose Raul Canlas

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

STUDY of a male model from a figurative photography workshop held in Sta. Fe. From a female photographer's perspective, the human body, despite its nakedness, is portrayed as a temple, not an object of lust.

Seeker of moments

AS A photographer, Denise Weldon-Miñana is a seeker of moments. In this search, she opts to forego time-based everyday pursuits in order to fully delve into the moment.

Outside of advertising and print media assignments, the art of photography for her is akin to meditation, during which she is more mindful, and focused on a single point.

This is the juncture where retrospection and purpose find simultaneous expression. In that moment, the art of seeing is enriched.

Weldon-Miñana's lens is an extension of her third eye, the eye of inner awareness, using which she is not afraid to trust her perceptions. Through the lens, as she reflects on an image, she experiences a different dimension and sees the final forms.

Beyond the material shape and composition of the subject and the technical aspects, she intuits a deeper level, the spirit of the image. She is thus able to express its essence through the nuances of tone and grain.

In the process, she encounters the landscape of the soul. That moment becomes a portal where she stops, scrutinizes, and then walks into the open door of within and beyond.

What attracts her to a particular subject? Weldon-Miñana is lured by a deep creative energy that silently seeks articulation. Heeding this call, she finds her own inner self, who is waiting to be rediscovered.

Denise Weldon-Miñana holds her photo exhibit at Gallerie Duemila, SM Megamall Building A, from Oct. 2 to 17.

Not nearly famous

By Ana A.S. Bitong
Contributor

TRUTH is, I didn't get famous in two weeks. I was a total failure at climbing the ladder of the socially challenged. This feat, I have long realized, requires nerves of steel similar to Superman's. Unless you were born with a real silver spoon in your mouth (not stainless steel), or pronounced a dead ringer for Giselle Bundchen, or slept with someone rich and famous, you are going to have to do some serious stretching of the truth, and a lot of ass-kissing! But all is not lost. I did manage to attend a few parties that were, ahem, strictly invitational, and where I got to observe the tricks of the social trade.

1) **Money.** Money makes the world go round. If you have loads, you are in. If not, faking it is still going to cost. Here are two different types of wealth and how they work:

• Old money plus power. These are the gods, those who own a whole city; including the malls, villages, roads, etc. If you are in anyway related to these people, even if you are the long-lost fifth cousin of the wife's sister's niece, claim your seat! In the VIP lounge, that is.

• New Money. Old money is suspicious of new money, so you must first spread seeds of love. In peso form. They must experience generosity. Ironically the rich are cheap, treat the old cheapos to Dom.

If you must attempt the new money stunt, you must be willing to splurge, hire a few bodyguards and a limo. Don't drink anything but champagne; and we're not talking Asti.

2) **Beauty.** There is nothing more breathtaking than a beautiful woman walking into a room. If you think you have it, then work it. This is a gift that money still can't buy, unless aided by science or a famous makeup artist. There are some techniques to guarantee best results:

• Perfect timing. Be fashionably late, meaning not too late and definitely not too early. Two hours after the stated time is usually good.

• Don't wear anything too slutty.

• Bring a girlfriend. Must be pretty or sexy; cute at the very least.

And remember to:

• Pose for the photographers. And should always look camera-ready, with a little help from Patrick, Juan, the Propaganda team, et al.

• Make sure you don't enter with anyone famous, or photographers will ignore you unless you can manage to look like you're with Mr./Ms. Famous. In which case, press your face into his/hers and say "Cheese!"

• Walk slowly, training your eyes on the VIP table.

• Greet everyone you know ... heck, even those you don't know.

3) **Name.** What's in a name? If you really want to have the 4 B's eating out of your hands, change your name to any of these:

• Zobel. Our version of aristocracy, guaranteed to get you prime parking, a seat with the bigwigs, and tons of adoring attention. But please make sure you have the family tree memorized to avoid you-know-what. Any sign of their adoration turning to suspicion, BOLT!

• Marcos. If you have no Hispanic features to speak of, you might want to use this name for a few moments of fame. Tainted, but still elicits power. Lots.

• Sy, Ty, Go, Tan, Yu, etc... But be sure you know your business.

4) **Movie stars and politicians.** The upper crust loves these people, as long as the former have a passable command of the English language and the latter are not facing major corruption raps (minor ones are okay). There are a few things to consider, though:

• Movie stars: Attach yourself to a socialite who will introduce you to the inner sanctum. Make it clear you are not interested in their hubbies. Gay friend (okay, walker) in tow is a must.

• Politicians: Attach yourself to third-generation old money with dwindling resources. Make it clear you can get him rich fast, in cash! Sidekicks are a must.

5) **Grapevine.** Juicy news will get you the hottest spot in the social rungs.

• Mistresses. This is gossip topic no.1, but it's dangerous. Wives can be swines. Make sure your ass is covered. Never say you got the information first hand.

• Boy toys. Mature woman going out with hunk young enough to be her nephew.

• Never before heard of illegitimate offspring.

• Bankruptcy. Must be filthy rich philandering society golden boy; everyone else is sooo old news.

6) **Guts.** When all else fails, achieve some semblance of social status by being the "fool." As in any royal court, someone has to be the life of the party. Just don't expect to be invited to afternoon tea.

• Dress to kill. Take the attire seriously and make a statement. This must be done with full conviction. Remember you do not want to be a fashion victim. You are just expressing yourself, whatever you are.

• Dance. With the '80s era in full swing, it's time to shake your booty.

• Nudity. Anyone willing to show breasts will definitely be noticed, or thrown out.

Last but not least, you must be on the list. A sure way to extinguish your chances of ruling the social scene is by being detained in front of the house, with everyone witnessing your sad attempt to get behind the velvet ropes. Be shameless.

True tell-tales of fame:

"I brought my own photographer." This sly little girl had her own hired shutterbug to take her pictures the whole night. As she pretended to drive him away, the real photographers followed suit. Guests thought, "She must be someone."

"I romanced a rich older woman." Mr. Gorgeous here went straight for recently divorced fortysomething (stress on the something) with the 4 B's. He is now enjoying some form of fame.

"I got introduced to a socialite and told her I saw her friend's husband with another woman." Be vague but detailed; tone must be suspenseful. Ms. Gossip Monger didn't really see anything. Now she is always invited to sit with the elite crowd ... never beforehand, though.

"I had an affair with a high-profile, rich, married man." Naughty Lady said she was treated like a queen but had to watch her back. Affair is over but she still gets special treatment, provided Mr. & Mrs. aren't around.

"I tip big." Aristocracy thinks he's someone because all the bouncers and waiters know him and are waiting on him. Actually, his tip is bigger than his bill.

The Barong Filipino

A fashion statement that's here to stay

Whatever the special occasion, wearing a Barong Filipino has become an expression of ultimate style. The delicate fabric, the silky rich texture, the exquisite embroidery endow the wearer with an aura of prestige, status, even power.

SM's Philippine Crafts Department showcases an impressive collection of Barong Filipinos noted for their distinctive needlework and fabrics.

A timeless fashion tradition that showcases our rich cultural heritage.

The Nadres Touch

SM Department Store's Barong Filipino label traces its exquisite styles to lady entrepreneur Felicidad Nadres. Since the 1960's, Mrs. Nadres has pooled the needlework skills of over a hundred artisans (*bordaderas*) to create distinctive Barong Filipino designs from hand-woven piña silk.

Over the course of more than four centuries, the Barong Filipino (Barong Tagalog) has evolved and grown from pre-Hispanic native wear to the "Philippine national attire"- picking up and shedding fashion - related features along the way.

The Fabrics

The piña fabric that is used by art and tradition in making a barong comes from hand-loomed fabrics manually extracted from the mature leaves of the pineapple plant.

The jusi fabric on the other hand was originally crafted from raw silk derived from the fibers of a butterfly cocoon. The increasing demand for the fabric led designers to look to the fibers of banana stalks as the more practical alternative to silk cocoon.

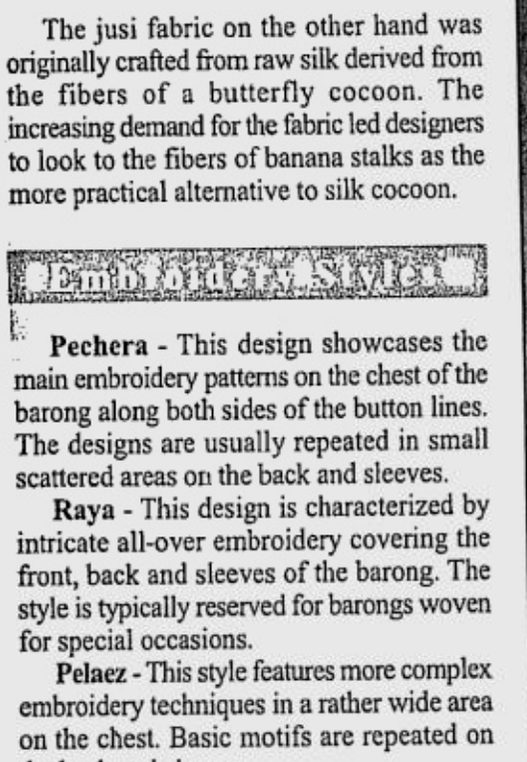
Embroidery Styles

Pechera - This design showcases the main embroidery patterns on the chest of the barong along both sides of the button lines. The designs are usually repeated in small scattered areas on the back and sleeves.

Raya - This design is characterized by intricate all-over embroidery covering the front, back and sleeves of the barong. The style is typically reserved for barongs woven for special occasions.

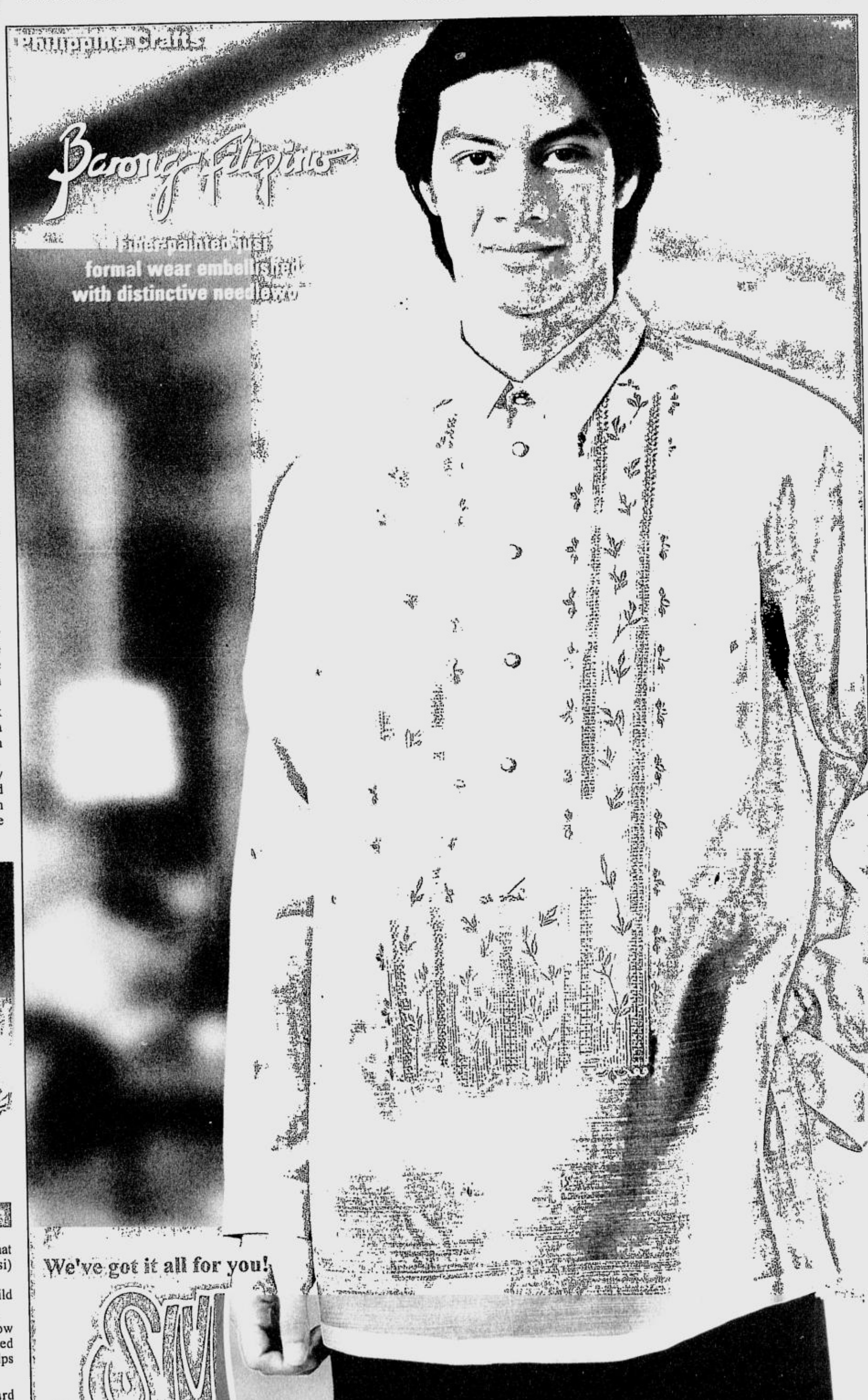
Pelaez - This style features more complex embroidery techniques in a rather wide area on the chest. Basic motifs are repeated on the back and sleeves.

Chanepa - This style distinctively features a wide band of embroidery around the entire border of the barong. This design is the contemporary alternative to the more traditional chest - focused designs.



How to care for the Barongs

- Dry cleaning may contain chemicals that may make the barong (piña and jusi) brittle.
- Handwashing is preferred; using a mild detergent or bath soap. Do not scrub.
- A piña barong that has turned yellow may be soaked overnight in diluted vinegar. The acid in the vinegar helps remove the yellowish stain.
- Rinse with upward and downward motion. Do not squeeze or twist. Drip dry on a hanger.
- Iron the barong while still damp, or as soon as it is dry.
- To avoid unsightly creases or folds, hang the barong using a protective covering.



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ADVT.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ÉLAN

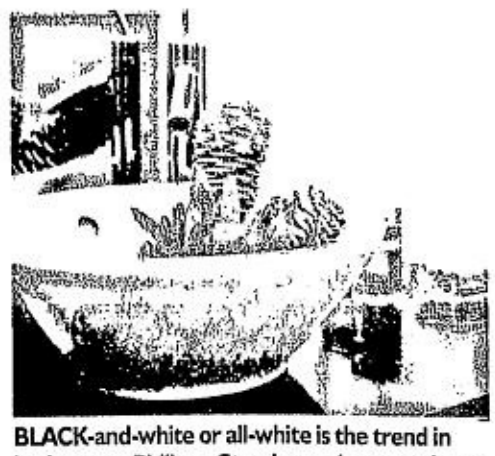
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2003 C2-1

Dwellings

Fast forward to 2007

By Avie Gochoco-Perez

Photos by Ava Lugtu • Pictorial direction by Albert Avellana



BLACK-and-white or all-white is the trend in bathrooms. Philippe Starck appointments have become status symbols in Filipino luxury condos.

SO YOU want to have the whole of Greenbelt, Makati as your closet, your entertainment area? The Ayalas are pre-selling condo units in the Laguna Tower, their new Residences project in Greenbelt, for anywhere between P8 million and P20 million.

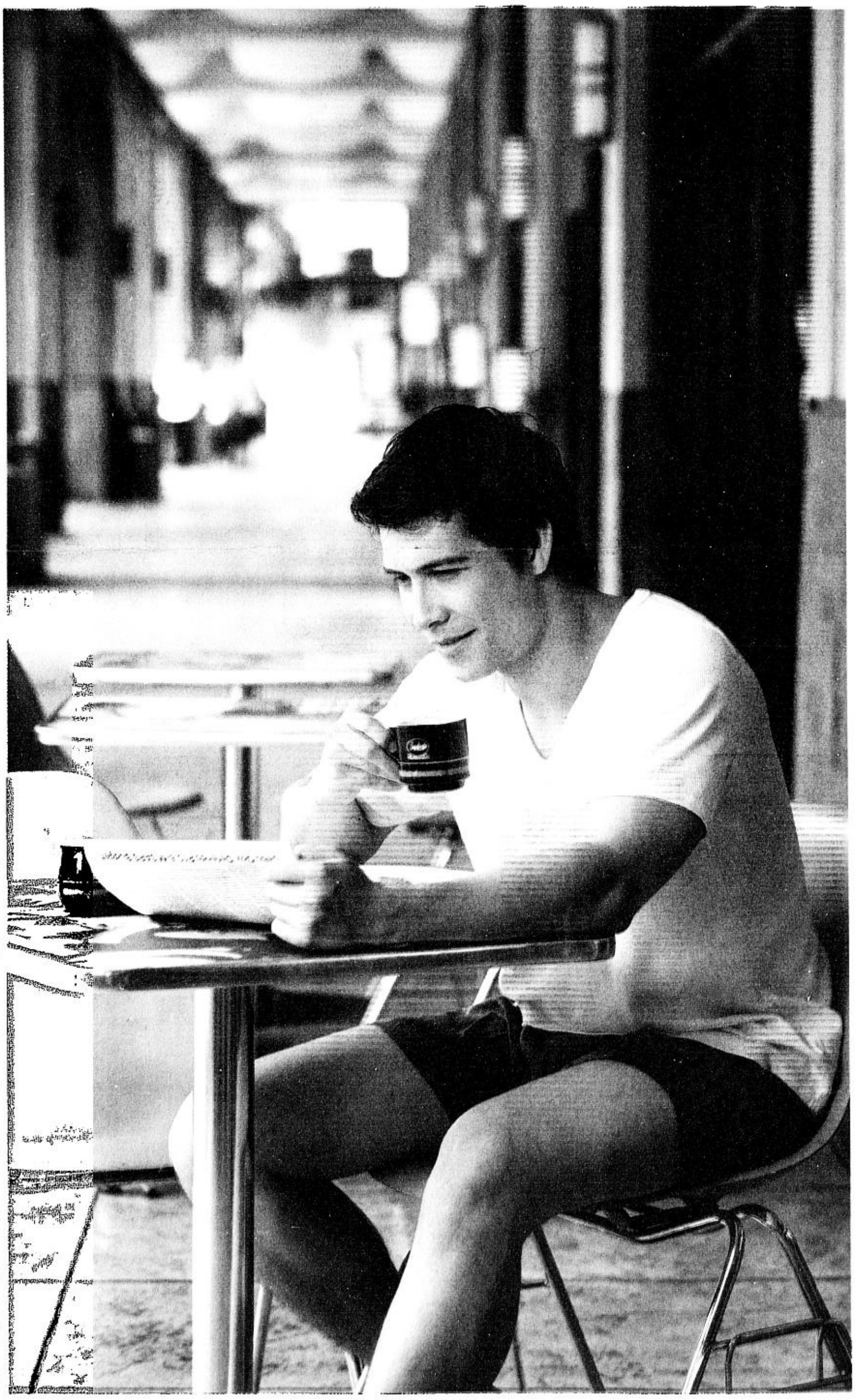
Steep? Not if Ayala's sales staff is to be believed. Three weeks after the start of pre-selling last June, half of the year's sales target was achieved. Latest word puts this at 70 percent, with all the "A" units, those facing the scenic Greenbelt side, sold out.

Why the brisk sales despite the sluggish economy and the glut in residential condo units?

Angela "Angie" de Villa-Lacson, senior vice-president of Ayala Land Inc.—looking after the residential buildings group, or the firm's high-end verticals—has a theory: key to the success is the "strong pull" of the highly respected Ayala name in property development.

Angie says: "People have faith that, when Ayala starts a project, it is finished in spite of the attendant problems. Other developers, when faced with obstacles, delay delivery to buyers or stop building altogether. Ayala can't do that because part of the deal is the trust in the name ... in the finishings and the quality

DWELLINGS/ D4



YOUR

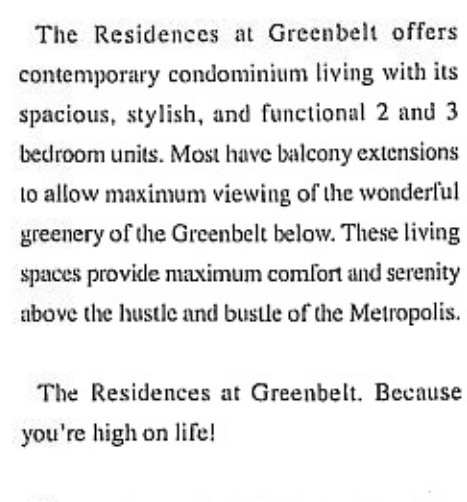
DINING

ROOM.

If you lived at

The Residences

at Greenbelt.



With the most dining choices in one place, from cafes, restaurants to food court, it's no wonder people will get carried away with certain things. Welcome to living as only The Residences at Greenbelt can provide.

The Residences at Greenbelt offers contemporary condominium living with its spacious, stylish, and functional 2 and 3 bedroom units. Most have balcony extensions to allow maximum viewing of the wonderful greenery of the Greenbelt below. These living spaces provide maximum comfort and serenity above the hustle and bustle of the Metropolis.

The Residences at Greenbelt. Because you're high on life!

To experience what it's like to live at The Residences at Greenbelt, visit our model units at the 3rd level of Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center.

An AYALA Community

THE RESIDENCES

AT GREENBELT

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A corner of the sky

All bold, all clean-lined, all neutral, nothing fancy. A retreat from the chaos of the city at its feet.

"IT is your small corner in the sky," says Royal Pineda, architect and managing partner of Budji Layug in Budji's latest enterprise that a business card details thus: "Architecture * Planning + Interior Design."

Their take on a two-bedroom unit at Greenbelt Makati's The Residences is primarily a modern, uncluttered one in clean, bold lines. It is "eggshell white" painted on the walls. It is wall-sized mirrors and floor-to-ceiling doors in frosted film laminate glass, giving the illusion of a higher ceiling and more space than the actual floor area of 113 to 137 sq m.

The doors' height "pushes up" the ceiling as the eyes follow their upsweep, while the glass on the same doors coax light to ease from one space into the next. The resulting feel is a fluid, uninterrupted, even softly misty feel, not the chopped-up, boxed-up feel that standard wooden doors give.

Yes, Budji and Royal saw fit to change all but one of the original wooden doors—including that of the maid's room—to tall, wood-framed glass doors. The front door was spared because owner-developer Ayala Land Inc. put its foot down: the front doors of all the units have to stay uniform.

Even so, Budji and Royal did their thing on the interior face of the door, making it go away in dark paint, including its surrounding walls. The boldness of the look expands the space as there are no details to distract the eye.

Discreet lighting enhances, enlarges the space to what feels like twice its size.

In the living room there is a stress on horizontals—as in the low, dual level couch seating, done in local fiber by design group Movement 8 member Milo Naval. A low, see-through square wire coffee table by another Movement 8 member, international award-winning designer Ann Pamintuan, sits unobtrusively at the center of the room.

A highly versatile "Bento" dining table by yet another Movement 8 award-winning member, Kenneth Cobonpue, playfully allows a diner to slide an entire tray holding his plate, cutlery and glass out of the table and bring it where he pleases. The same tray can be flipped over and slid back into the table for an even, uninterrupted tabletop.

Fancy and surprise

Atop the dark stained dining table is a geometric rendition of a lamp in brushed stainless steel. A solitary halogen bulb on the ceiling is framed by the steel which also has a glass shelf on which, one may display objects of fancy, or even of value. Apart from helping distribute light over the table, the objects on the glass invite fancy and surprise.

The dark brown of wenge wood in the bedrooms' built-in ledges, tables and shelves serve as a foil to light reflecting from full-sized mirrors used generously on entire walls. If these were in light colors, the feel would be commercial, not homey, Royal notes.

"We contrasted the dark wenge panels with the mirrors. Our major canvas was the white walls. The dark panels just accented the walls."

To feature "our quality, our standards, our taste" in the limited space available, aside from taking down all the wooden doors that "compartmentalized" the space, Budji and Royal ripped off all the cornices, moldings and baseboards from the walls or, in the few places where these were retained, they were painted to blend with and sink into the walls.

"This way, you do not see any end or termination of spaces," Royal says.

A full-sized frosted glass panel replaced an entire wall of the foyer, a wall of the powder room, for that all-important aim: spaciousness and light. The translucency of the glass opens up the space and lends it a softly bright, cool-to-the-eye hue.

Designer fixtures—Philippe Starck's—have taken their place of pride of place where the standard water closet and lavatory fixtures used to sit. Floor-to-ceiling mirrors blanket an entire wall behind the water closet and the round, raised lavatory sitting atop the simple, geometric wooden countertop Budji designed. The original powder room has become a gleaming, stylish rendition of Budji's modern style, not too formal as to make it stiff but straightforward enough to be functionally, friendly, clean in its lines and makeup.

Less noisy

The overall ceiling of the unit was left as free of light fixtures as possible. "A rule of thumb is the fewer lighting fixtures on the ceiling, the less 'noisy' the atmosphere becomes. Why? The eyes are not busied looking at small things," says Royal.

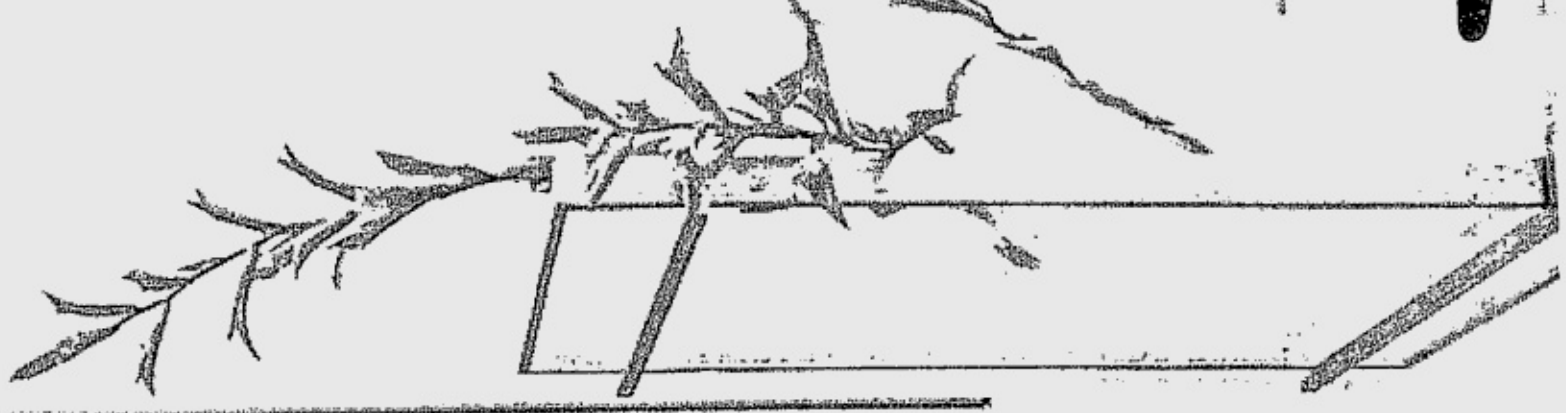
Although the design duo wanted to stain the jumbo *narra* parquet tiles on the floor in a dark hue to make it less "busy to the eye," restrictions from the owner-developer led them instead to covering a large part of the unit's flooring with a rug in a combination wool-and-*abaca* material.

The backsplashes in the kitchen were fitted with mirrors, the better, again, to enlarge the available space. The black granite countertops, in contrast, gleam all the more.

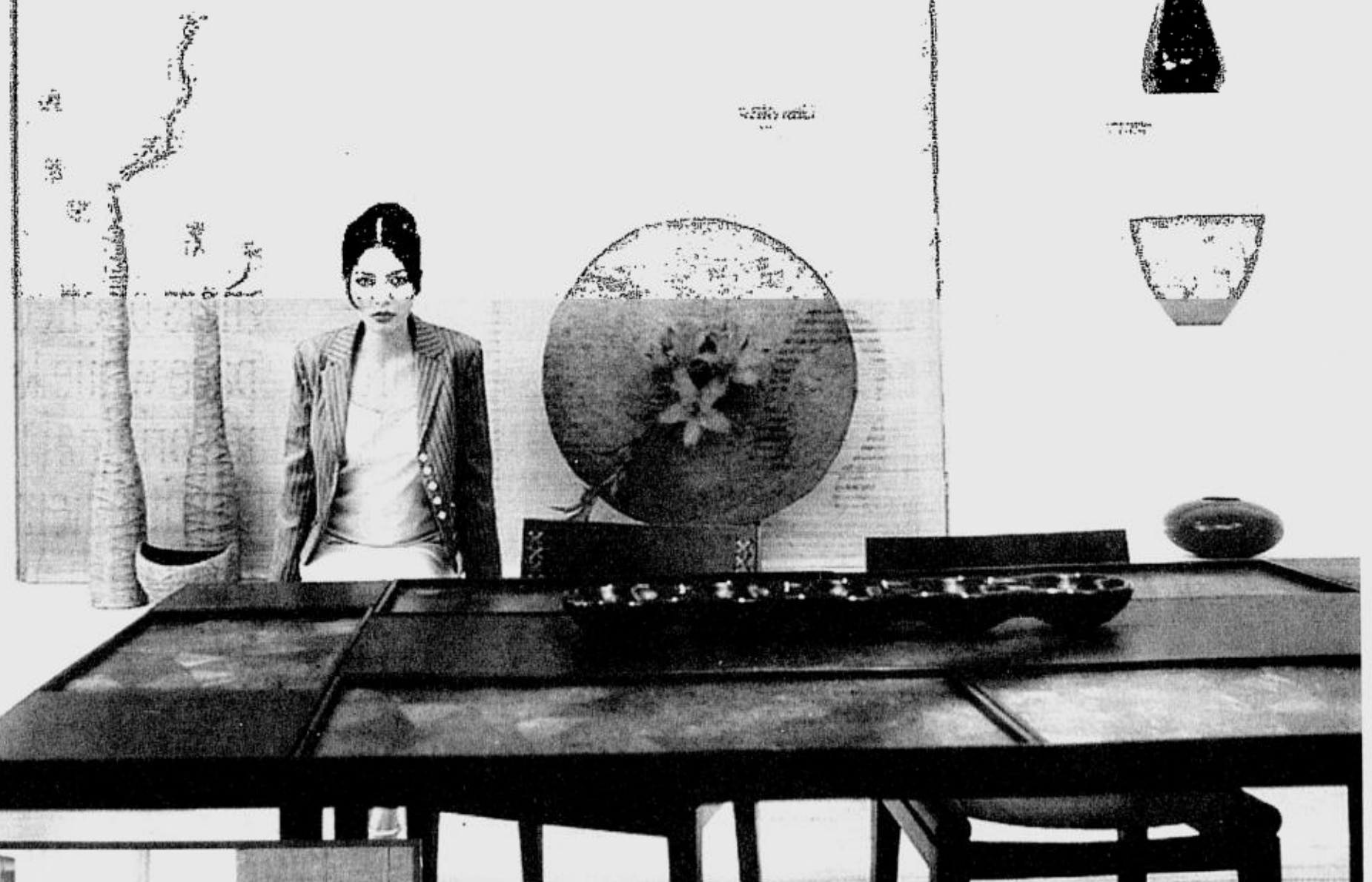
The bedroom cabinets and kitchen cabinets were all changed to exude a modern, streamlined feel. Professional shops specializing in wardrobe and kitchen cabinetry were called in to achieve that feel. One comment, though: Royal must have missed seeing the extremely high—as to make it inaccessible—hanger bar of the lady's wardrobe! And yes, the grouting of the kitchen and bathroom tiles need sealing to block off dirt.

Still, the unit is a calm showcase of what is good in Philippine modern and the wise use of materials to enhance, enlarge space. It is a space for uncluttered living, uncluttered thinking.

Says Royal: "We're happy that people love it. That is our reward."



NEUTRAL color scheme complements the minimalist look with well-chosen pieces. To evoke intimacy, Another skeletal ceiling, adorned with heliconias by Tony Padilla, hangs from the peaked ceiling. Another home trend is fabric paneling at the back wall. Soft lighting, indirectly lit from inside the shelvings, and the base boards give the illusion of floating space.



SIMPLICITY highlights luxurious materials. Fabric headboard and raw silk furnishings for the bedroom. Mirrors, floating cabinet and uplighting and cove lighting continue the illusion of space.

A two-bedroom unit that's a place for uncluttered living, uncluttered thinking

Veneer-clad wall, made from blond wood makes a powerful statement, punctuated by another status symbol, the plasma tv. Adding to the sculptured look are the cantilevered shelf and ledge.

MOTHER-and-daughter interior design tandem Marion Coscolluela and Mara C. Quintal, whom Ayala Land Inc. tapped to present a three-bedroom unit at The Residences, attacked the job with a singular aim: to open up the space (about 180-240 sq m) while keeping as much of the unit's original materials intact and sealing the finished product with their trademark "minimalism with Asian touches."

"So buyers will know what they are getting," Marion says.

This choice meant leaving untouched the wooden two-tone doors throughout the unit, save for one. It meant leaving bare much of the jumbo *narra* parquet tiles sweeping the living, dining and bedroom areas, throwing in only small area rugs to punctuate the sitting areas in the living and master bedrooms. The bedrooms' closet doors, like those of the bathroom and kitchen cabinets, were also left as is.

What the tandem did, they like to say, was "enhance the interior's architecture."

They coaxed the center of the living room ceiling to inch up as they "dropped" the ceiling surrounding it. They added another ceiling to that in the hallway leading to the two bedrooms. Now, as light floods the gap between the two ceilings, the higher ceiling recedes, expanding the feel of space.

The Coscolluelas created functional art at the end of the hallway: big, open blocks ready to host a collection of the future dweller while the rest of the big blocks are given doors that can close, for use simply as storage or even just to hide clutter.

The door and door jamb leading to the master's bedroom were chucked in favor of a glass sliding door. For this space, a modern, sleek feel was achieved, and the change turned out to be space-saving, as well: no space had to be left free beyond the door to let people in or out.

"We wanted to use the reflective character of glass first for a modern approach, and second for a more spacious feel," Mara says, "especially because it delineates the master bedroom from the living and dining areas."

Refreshing combination

The Coscolluelas painted the unit in "fancy white," although they laugh when explaining that it was really just off-white on a sample board. The "reflection of the glass" makes it actually look, surprisingly, not-quite-celadon and not-quite-mint.

Glass, metal and wood make for the light, modern, but still conservatively homey feel. "Metal, glass and wood is a very refreshing combination," Marion says.

Metal sweeps the dining table edges and gleams on the legs of the living room's armchair as it does on the coffee table accessories.

Wood was used generously for the built-in sections in the bedrooms.

Wooden ledges, wide enough for sitting, embrace a side of the small bedroom meant for a young person. The ledges are lit underneath to make them seem to float for that feel of spaciousness. A slab of wood with grooves cut horizontally into its surface serves as both headboard and part of the room's wall.

A structural column that jutted out of one side of the room was left untouched, save for a paint job. "What is off can be an accent. It doesn't have to be something that complements the whole thing," says Marion.

As part of "opening up" the unit and giving it "more depth," the Coscolluelas slanted the living room furniture, the first items one sees as one enters the unit. With the slanted positioning of the furniture, the feel "is not stiff," Marion notes.

Calming effect

The design tandem chose to build a wall unit for the living room in imported maple wood veneer. The wall unit has two shelves that rise from the floor where accessories sit. (Also on this wall unit hangs a plasma TV set, definitely an appliance of choice of folks that would qualify as The Residences' target market.)

The maple wood veneer's light shade exudes a "calming effect which we always look for in our designs. We want our designs Zen-like, minimalist, so the dweller can grow with it. The dweller can add more to the design," Mara offers.

Says Marion: "We use neutral colors too, so a client can add pieces in other colors. We do not start with strong colors that can clash with other colors."

Ceiling-to-floor mirror opens up a slip of wall space beyond the dining room where the picture window ends. Placement of the mirror in that spot gives one the illusion of an "extra" hallway where there is really none. And again, mirrors surround the headboard of the master bed, enlarging the space.

Given only about a month to dress up the unit, the Coscolluelas say it took three weeks to build the interior architecture under the baton of W.V. Coscolluela & Associates staff architect, Dondi Salvador. "We had only one week to bring in the drapery, the furniture," recalls Mara. "We had to work fast.

Yes, the original budget was exceeded, but that was covered by Ayala. "As we worked on the unit, we realized it was asking for more. We knew we could enhance the design by bringing in accessories." They wished, however, that they were able to use better-quality fabric for the living room furniture. The budget frowned on that one.

In the end, Marion and Mara were confident that they successfully interpreted the lifestyle needs of The Residences' target market—an active, young family that has reached a level of financial success but whose taste for home shuns anything that is too avant-garde, in favor of elegance in a comfortably conservative way.

Two kinks, however, might be ironed out in future, when the real units of The Residences do go up. One is the grouting in the kitchen and bathroom tiles need sealing, as they can get awfully dirty otherwise—and they are, already, in the model units. The other is the hinging of the powder room door on the three-bedroom unit, which should probably be switched to the other side. Right now, when you open the door, it almost hits the water closet inside.

The designers opened up the three-bedroom space while keeping as much of the unit's original materials, and sealed it with their trademark 'minimalism with Asian touches'

On the side of elegance

THE STAINLESS steel dining table is softened by the upholstered chair, and an arrangement of bromeliads, calatheas and fishtail palms by Padilla. Enlivening the neutral palette are a gilt sunburst mirror and a floral arrangement made of lotus eggs and philodendrons.

FLOWERS: TONY PADILLA OF FLORAL DESIGNS • MODEL: CHRISCEL AGUDO, CAL CARRIE'S • HAIR AND MAKEUP: DENNIS TAN • CLOTHES AND STYLING: RINA GO OF VISEVERSA • SPECIAL THANKS: RUBY PAUROM

Dwellings

From page D1

of materials—these are never downgraded even if their prices go up during the construction phase."

She concedes that the firm initially thought sales would be slow "because all these coups and political upheavals could dampen buyers' enthusiasm." But it was always sure that things would pick up sooner or later, especially if there are end-users. Investors in condos are "half and half," she explains. This means half invest in units that they can lease out, and the other half give the units to their children.

Angie has chosen to live in Residences in Greenbelt 2, where many expats now stay. The units sit across the site where Laguna Tower is being built. Thus, she describes the experience with authority.

Young executives and empty-nesters will find a whole range of reasons to live in The Residences

Different world

"When you enter Residences, you're in a different world. Once you are at the podium, you are home; there is peace and quiet. There is a garden in the middle where you can sit and meditate." At the Laguna Tower project, which will hereon be referred to as The Residences, this garden will begin in Greenbelt 2, span its length, and end where McDonald's sits near Paseo de Roxas.

Another of Angie's discoveries is that yes, there's quiet time even in Greenbelt. The quiet time ends just before noon when the lunchtime crowd troops in. In the mornings, one can jog around, go to Mass at the nearby chapel, have breakfast either at home or in one of the coffee shops. After lunch one can take in a movie ... the list of activities is endless.

Traffic? Not to worry. Walkways will be built to connect The Residences to Greenbelt 2 and 3. Parking? Each unit comes with two slots. Besides, one will learn to move when traffic is easier: there are such times to be discovered and enjoyed.

So who are The Residences' target market?

Well-off executives and entrepreneurs who have good businesses going, and for whom Makati is the center of life. This group is young and active; the day continues for them way after work hours, when their social life begins.

"They have a lot of ambition; they are driven," notes Angie.

Weekday scenes

On weekdays, who go to Greenbelt?

Empty nesters or the retired folk of Forbes Park who take breakfast there or simply sit and watch people go by. They could exchange their high-maintenance mansions and retinue of maids, drivers, gardeners and security guards for uncomplicated, easy living at The Residences, Angie says. Imagine how much money they can save by doing away with such a big household staff, she adds. "The grandchildren can come visit them. Movies and restaurants are just a short stroll away."

Also making a beeline for Greenbelt on weekdays are executives and entrepreneurs who arrange breakfast meetings there. Definitely, a "great selling point" is the uniqueness of The Residences' location, a formidable marketing pitch.

At The Residences, the units are not as big as those of Essensa and Pacific Plaza at the Fort, or One Roxas Triangle in Makati, or Rizal Tower at Rockwell. But they are about the same size as those at the Luna Tower of Rockwell. Maybe the more manageable size helps, considering per square meter price is about P80,000. There has been a five percent price increase since last June, but that has been tempered by a more manageable monthly amortization scheme, Angie says.

Those with money to spare—P8 million to P12 million for a two-bedroom unit, or between P13 million and P18 million for a three-bedroom unit—would do well to plunk it into this Ayala property and not look back. Instead, four years from now, they could look out to Greenbelt, the Makati skyline and serene Laguna de Bay from a window of the Laguna Tower. Not a bad scene at all.

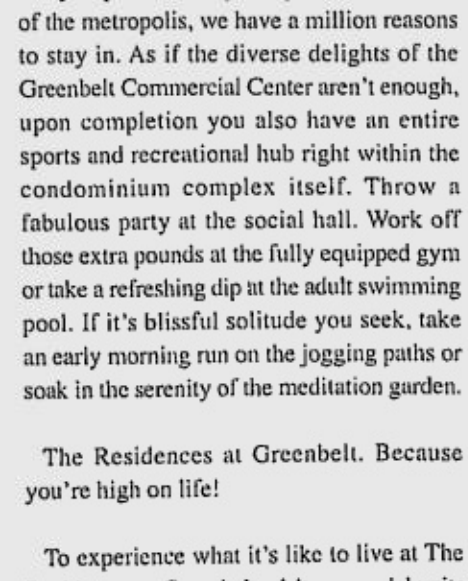
YOUR

CLOSET.

If you lived at

The Residences

at Greenbelt.



With over a hundred clothes shops at your disposal, it's no wonder people will get carried away with certain things. Welcome to living as only The Residences at Greenbelt can provide.

If you prefer to stay away from the bustle of the metropolis, we have a million reasons to stay in. As if the diverse delights of the Greenbelt Commercial Center aren't enough, upon completion you also have an entire sports and recreational hub right within the condominium complex itself. Throw a fabulous party at the social hall. Work off those extra pounds at the fully equipped gym or take a refreshing dip at the adult swimming pool. If it's blissful solitude you seek, take an early morning run on the jogging paths or soak in the serenity of the meditation garden.

The Residences at Greenbelt. Because you're high on life!

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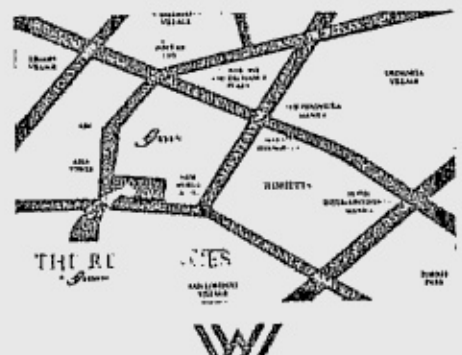

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THE RESIDENCES AT GREENBELT

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SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre

"UNDERWORLD." Cost as much as it made in only three days—$22 million. REUTERS

Vampires, werewolves run amok at US box office

LOS ANGELES—Horror is huge at the North American box office.

For the fourth weekend in a little over a month, the top draw was a blood-soaked yarn, this time the low-budget thriller, "Underworld," which pits vampires against werewolves.

Crowded field

The film led a crowded field of five newcomers by selling about $22 million worth of tickets in its first three days, according to estimates issued on Sunday by its distributor, Sony Pictures. Coincidentally, it cost that much to make.

But "Underworld" was arguably overshadowed by the occupant of the No. 10 slot, the arthouse saga, "Lost in Translation," starring Bill Murray. The acclaimed Focus Features release, from writer/director Sofia Coppola, earned $2.8 million from just 183 theaters in its second weekend. By contrast, "Underworld" was playing in 2,915 sites.

On the downside, moviegoers decided they would rather see "Anything Else" than Woody Allen's new movie of the same name. The DreamWorks romantic comedy opened out of the top 10 with just $1.7 million, despite an advertising campaign that emphasized its young stars, Jason Biggs and Christina Ricci, rather than its polarizing auteur.

Last weekend's top movie, Sony's Mexican Western, "Once Upon a Time in Mexico," fell to No. 4 with $11.5 million. The film's 10-day take rose to $41.4 million. It cost just $29 million to make, and Sony expects ticket sales to pass $60 million. *Reuters*

Kris-Joey split is hottest show on television

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN we learned that Kris Aquino and Joey Marquez had broken off their controversial affair after an alleged violent incident involving a gun, we braced ourselves for more disturbing revelations to come. After all, both protagonists were spirited celebrities with strong temperaments, so a discreet, urbane parting of ways would be a most uncharacteristic denouement for them.

Violent elements

After the incident, Joey was first to personally ventilate his side on the traumatic incident on TV. His version basically denied most of the story's violent elements. Most crucially, he asserted that no gun was involved. And, quite often on his home channel, GMA-7, he went on to declare that violence was contrary to his nature, a statement enthusiastically corroborated by his relatives and friends.

Kris' lawyers disputed Joey's version of the story, but his personal account appeared to hold greater weight with some viewers than the second-hand narration of Kris' attorneys. Thus, everybody was impatiently waiting for Kris herself to finally share her first-hand account with the avidly viewing nation, to balance things up.

Moment of truth

That moment of truth finally came last Wednesday evening, when Channel 2's "TV Patrol" ran its exclusive interview with Kris. Before the interview, we sensed that, aside from airing her side on the alleged violent break-up, Kris would probably do something even more dramatic, something that would make the interview a truly memorable *cause célèbre*.

Well, Kris didn't disappoint. In her mother's home, she faced Korina Sanchez with a practically un-made-up face and emotions in resolute check, and proceeded to narrate what happened, in great detail. Yes, there was physical violence; yes, there was a gun; no, she didn't create that scarifying scenario just to vengefully put Joey in a very bad light.

After having dealt with the controversial incident in question, however, Kris took a deep breath—and went on to talk about other, darker, more deeply disturbing aspects of her troubled and troubling 18-month relationship with Joey.

Her revelations included some "secrets" which she said Joey had threatened to reveal in public, to either silence her (so she would

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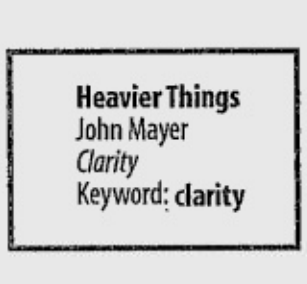

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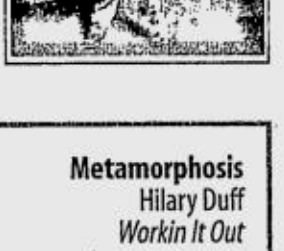

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Michael Bublé, master showman

By Rito P. Asilo

BUBLÉ. Eager to please.

BEFORE Michael Bublé sang the stirring "You'll Never Know" at his by-invitation-only gala performance at the Meralco Theater, he admitted that, while he was grateful for the adulation of his ever-growing throng of admirers, there was a drawback to his newfound fame:

Downside

"With all the traveling I have to do, I can't be with my best friend, my grandfather. I miss him." He dedicated a song to the old man, and started to sing with his eyes closed.

It was his vulnerability blending so well with his wicked good looks and youthful antics onstage that made him such a pleasure to watch. By the time he sang the song's last line ("You'll never know if you don't know now"), even his audience felt a sense of longing for people who have come and gone in their lives. As the crooner wiped a tear unabashedly, so did the lady seated beside us.

He sang "All of Me," the first song he performed in a talent search—and lost! Before he sang "Mack The Knife," he said the song was not just his favorite Bobby Darin song, but that Darin was his favorite entertainer as well.

For the first time, too, he sang his version of "My Funny Valentine," which will be included in his follow-up CD.

Walking aphrodisiac

A Michael Bublé performance wouldn't be complete without his brand of boyish naughtiness. When he asked his band to play "Fever," they answered with a resounding "No!" because the song was, they gestured, "too risky." Then, with a twinkle in his eyes, he explained, "This is a very sexy song. I take no responsibility for whatever the audience will do after the show. I am a big oyster, a walking aphrodisiac. I make people horny for a living!"

His eagerness to please was evident when, after hearing a male audience member shout "I love you, Michael! Marry me!" to him, he descended the stage and, upon finding the source (director Fritz Infante), he held Infante's face with both his hands and gave the director a kiss on the lips! Then, he went back onstage to high-five members of his band before capping the scene with a version of George Michael's "Faith," relished with a wicked grin.

At one point, after noticing a slew of camera flashes, he stopped in the middle of a spiel, feigned a serious look, and began to remind the audience about the "no camera" rule. Then, he suddenly changed his tone and said: "Come on, if you have a camera, go ahead and use it. Take pictures! I don't care if they fire me!" Then he descended the stage again to where the woman with the camera was, and posed to have his picture taken with her. If that isn't showmanship, we don't know what is!

Goodbye

When it was time to thank the audience and say goodbye, he said: "Listen, I really want you to get this: It wasn't always like this. I have done crummy gigs. I am very grateful to all of you for accommodating me. And I promise, I will always come back to the Philippines for as long and as often as you want me."

Michael Bublé's love affair with the Filipino people has only just begun!

Inventive visualization marks Dindong Dantes' directorial debut

By Nestor U. Torre

DANTES. Eventful direction.

We viewed the newly reformated "Kakabakaba Adventures" on GMA-7 recently to see how Dingdong Dantes is faring in his new role as the TV series' director. Well, the good news is that Dingdong's direction is eventful and visually striking. This augurs well for the young talent's fledgling directorial career, both on TV and in the movies.

Schedule

In fact, *direk* Dingdong is such a busy comer these days that his acting career has temporarily been put on hold. Let's hope that he's able to adjust his schedule in the next few weeks, so he can find time to act again.

Directing is fine, but there's no point in Dingdong's squandering the popularity as a TV-film actor that he's built up for such a long time.

The bad news about "Kakabakaba Adventures" is its poor storytelling. Its general plot premise is acceptable: Seven "typical" 16-year-olds turn out to be the children of *diwatas*, and possess different super powers that they're supposed to use to battle evil forces.

But the first episode floundered because it had to introduce so many new characters. As a result, its storytelling bogged down. It would have been better if the show didn't choose to focus on all seven of its young heroes in just one episode.

There's also a problem with the new young stars' performances. A few of them are promising, but many come off as too raw to topbill a TV series this early in their careers.

They should have been given more acting workshops or smaller roles in other shows to hone their talent, before making them the leads of this series.

Strong grip

Well, they'll be around for at least one season, so we hope that they'll be able to get a strong grip on their characters within that time frame.

Another element that the series can improve on is the weak projection of its "evil forces," led by Zoren Legaspi's character. Zoren should realize that it takes more than just the heavy application of eyeliner to come off as truly menacing.

As for his minions, they are more silly than fearsome, so a lot of work is required to firm up their acts, too.

Come to think of it, these low points come within the director's command responsibility, so Dingdong has to focus on more than just energetic and inventive visualization to make this reformated series really effective and successful.

The Amir of Rap focuses on acting

AGASSI. Hopes to win an acting award someday.

By Jocelyn Valle

"THE MARKET is not big enough for rap artists," Carlos Agassi admits. "I started out as a commercial model and actor. I've been rapping for three years. I've realized that people got confused when they saw me in my old *teleserye*, 'Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan,' and as a rapper."

The Amir (Carlos' real name) of Rap has therefore decided to concentrate on acting and will only do rap numbers on "ASAP Mania," and in concerts here and abroad.

Opportunity

"Acting gives me the opportunity to be another person," is how Carlos explains why he's chosen to focus on his acting career. "All the characters I've played have facets of my personality. I feel lucky to be given roles that challenge me."

On "Buttercup," Channel 2's light-drama series about young adults, Carlos plays former child star Pippo, who's the object of his gay friend's (Onemig Bondoc) affection. Later on, Pippo gets involved with a lonely older woman (Carmi Martin).

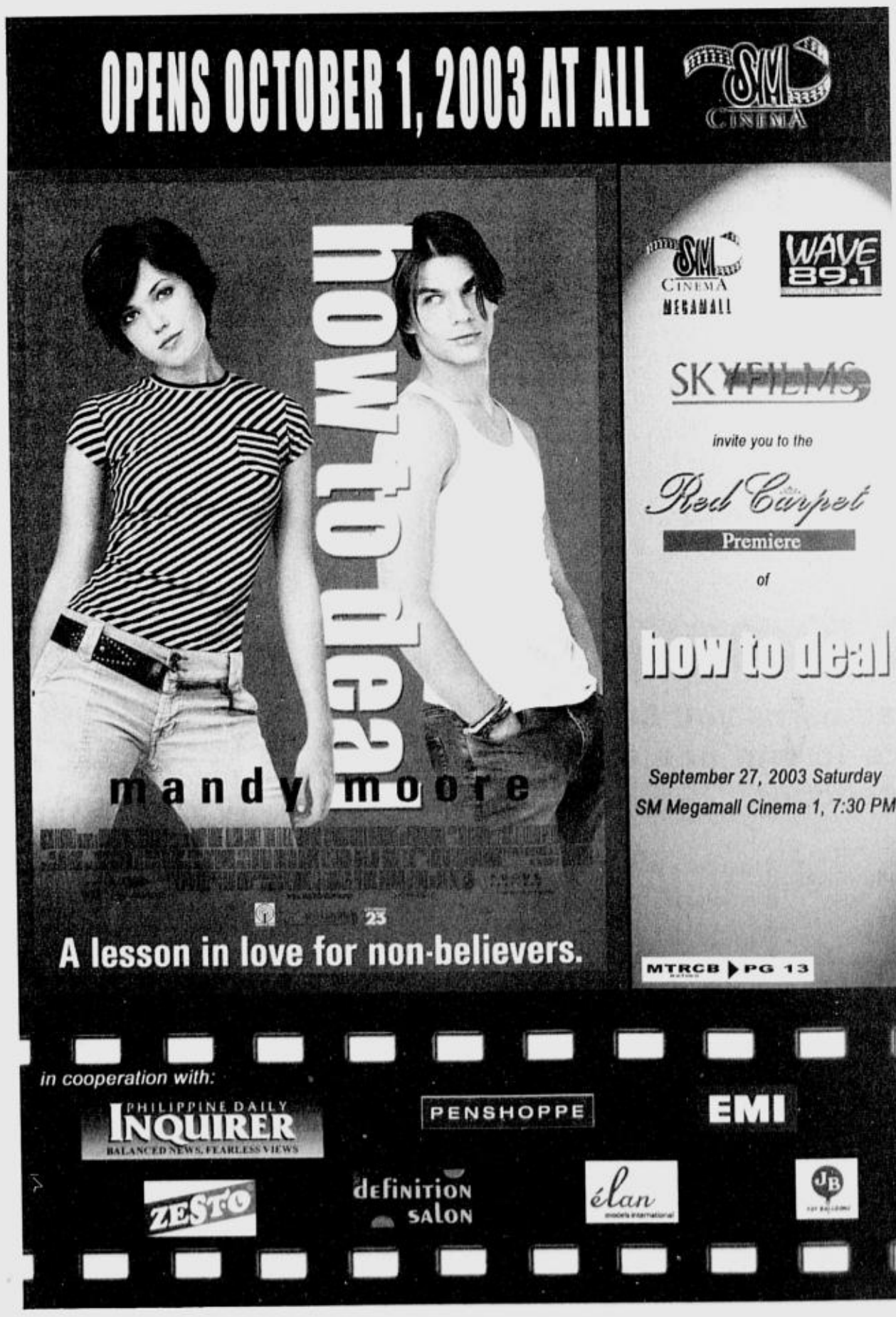
Mama's boy

On the other hand, in Star Cinema's "Pinay Pie," Carlos is cast as the leading man of Ai Ai delas Alas. "I'm an *astig* policeman who falls in love with Ai Ai," he shares. "But I'm also a mama's boy whose mother doesn't approve of my relationship with Ai Ai, so I'm forced to leave her."

Last year, Carlos acted in Chito Roño's "Dekada '70." He hopes to bag an award someday. For now, however, he'd rather act in light comedies.

From a shy commercial model, Carlos has metamorphosed into a confident young actor, and he attributes this to discipline and hard work.

Carlos admits to getting his fair share of criticism. "They keep me grounded and they inspire me to do better work," he observes. "That's why I'm now taking voice lessons. In my past two albums, I did a lot of rapping. Next time, I'll sing more."



Kris-Joey split is hottest . . . From page E1

do what he wanted), or to expose her (if she didn't). No longer willing to play the "game" by his "rules," Kris took another deep breath and preempted what she said was Joey's threat by revealing those secrets herself.

Bombshell

That was the bombshell, the extra, unexpected step that has made the contentious, combustible Kris-Joey affair the certified *cause célèbre* it now is. Trust Kris Aquino to take things to another, more dramatic level.

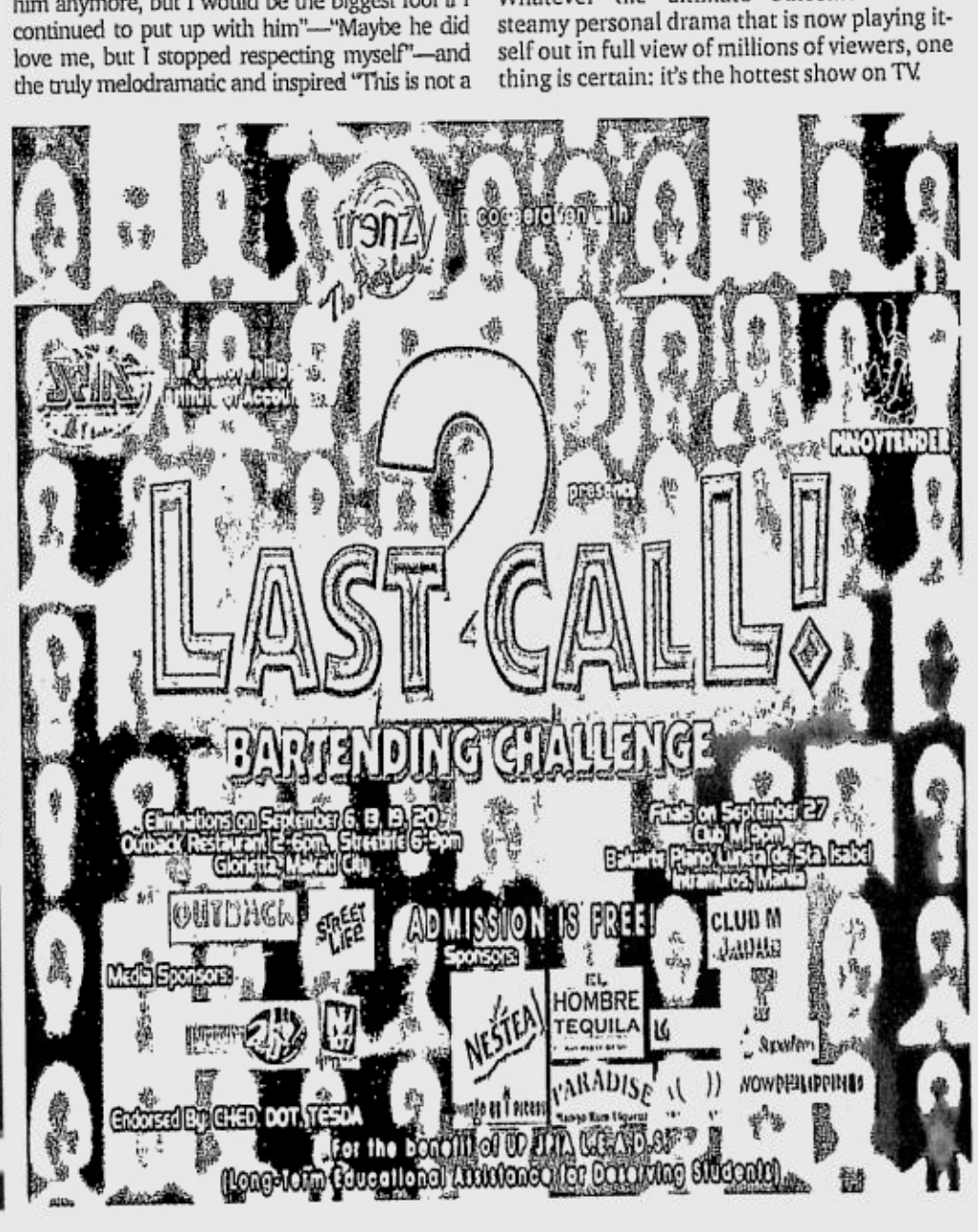
Trust her, too, to come up with statements that aptly sum up what she feels, which people will be quoting for days to come—memorable statements like "I would be the biggest liar if I said I didn't love him anymore, but I would be the biggest fool if I continued to put up with him"—"Maybe he did love me, but I stopped respecting myself"—and the truly melodramatic and inspired "This is not a broken heart, this is a broken person."

Having gone beyond the point of no return in being as honest as she could be by rattling the skeletons in her own closet, Kris realized that she could face the public's opprobium in the days to come. Not only is she a woman in crisis, even her stellar career is in danger of outraged viewers' scorn.

Self-confessed 'sinners'

But Filipinos love to "forgive" self-confessed "sinners," so Kris could survive this low point in her private and public life. The question now is, will Joey?

It'll be instructive to see how he will counter Kris' charges in the days to come. Whatever the ultimate outcome of this steamy personal drama that is now playing itself out in full view of millions of viewers, one thing is certain: it's the hottest show on TV.



Piolo pulls ahead of the pack

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

PIOLO Pascual is lightness and passion combined. He has the kind of presence that makes you pay attention. And yet, a cloud of mystery surrounds him. He's analytical one minute, a naughty prankster the next. Piolo claims that his unpredictability stems from his zodiac sign: Capricorn.

PASCUAL. His debut album has turned platinum.

Simple and quiet

"I'm simple and quiet. I hang out in the house with friends. I play pool, I even have a cue stick signed by Efren "Bata" Reyes. I love playing with my nieces and nephews. I love hiking. I used to go to Batangas and Antipolo because I love nature. I love the beach.

"I like observing birds and other animals. I like traveling. Going to the States is a great form of relaxation because I like exploring different cultures," Piolo grins. "If I had it my way, I'd go to a different country every week."

He created quite a stir in "Esperanza" and "Sa Sandaling Kailangan Mo Ako," and sustained his popularity with "Sa Puso Ko Iingatan Ka." Now, he is paired with Claudine Barretto in the weekly series, "Buttercup."

Mystery

His debut album, "Kailangan Kita," under Star Records has turned platinum. Now, he's preparing for his Christmas album. "A song will take you from one place to another. Every song should be treated like a mystery," he says.

Singing is a passion for him. Before he leaves for Milan, Italy to shoot his movie with Claudine Barretto, Piolo will share the spotlight with Rica Peralejo and Angelica Jones in a concert at Casino Filipino, Mimosa, Clark Field, Pampanga on Oct. 4.

"My biggest indulgences are CDs and candles. I enjoy listening to classical and new age music. Music inspires me and I hope I can also inspire people with my songs," Piolo claims.

Piolo is grateful that he works constantly. "I've always wanted to be an actor. My father was a casting director for international films that were shot here. That may have influenced me. Even when I was young, I'd act and sing in front of a mirror.

"I guess it paid off. I used to dream of making it in the States, but it was too difficult."

More focused

He admits that he's a mama's boy. He says, "I don't mind it when people say I'm effeminate because that's how my Mom brought me up. But she also taught me to be focused, spiritual and independent. I believe in roses and chocolates. I believe in proper courtship. Nowadays, you say you love someone, then that's it, *kayo na*. I want to do it the old-fashioned way. But I don't have a girlfriend right now because my career is my top priority."

Solace in pain

ONE day, I woke up feeling great. I did my morning rituals before I took a bath. After drying myself, I suddenly felt a pain on my back. I decided to go back to bed. I was bedridden for three months, enduring extreme pain.

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Homeopathic treatment

No one knew what was wrong with me, so I tried natural and homeopathic treatments. I also consulted a neurologist since I was certain I had no broken bones. My muscles were so stiff and swollen that I had difficulty moving. I did everything with the help of friends. They fed and bathed me in bed.

My cousin, Dr. Brigido Carandang, a specialist in neurology, said I had fibromyalgia and that there was no known cause nor cure. It is not a disease of the bones but of the muscles and nerves, and can attack any part of the body. Acupuncture did not do any good. Injections to ease the pain lasted only a few minutes. It was pure agony. But I refused to take painkillers because they could have turned me into a vegetable. I did not want to feel numb, groggy and useless.

Chiropractor

Good friends found a chiropractor, Dr. Ben Adorable, who was willing to do house calls. He came and twisted my body here and there—and after two sessions, I was able to go to the bathroom. I also got better through the help of Dr. Corazon Villaver and Jimmy Dyliaco, who researched about the disease and suggested supplemental medicines to strengthen my heart, muscles and bones.

I am able to walk short distances now. I can work on the computer, paint and have lunch and dinner with friends and relatives when I am not in pain, or when I am not too tired.

What can a doctor do if he knows very little about the condition?

It is not a disease of old age. As a matter of fact, people afflicted are usually between 30 and 40 years old.

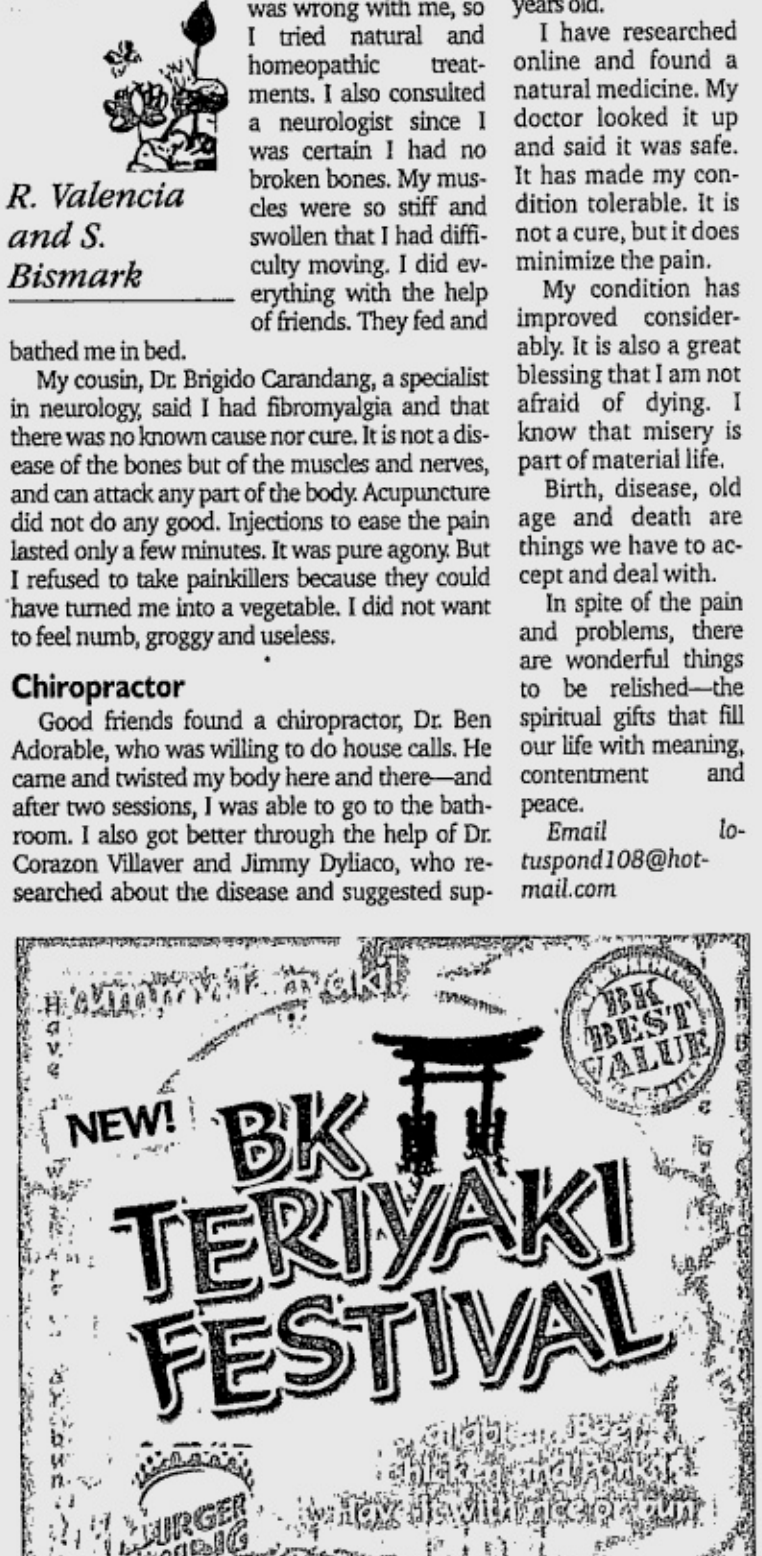
I have researched online and found a natural medicine. My doctor looked it up and said it was safe. It has made my condition tolerable. It is not a cure, but it does minimize the pain.

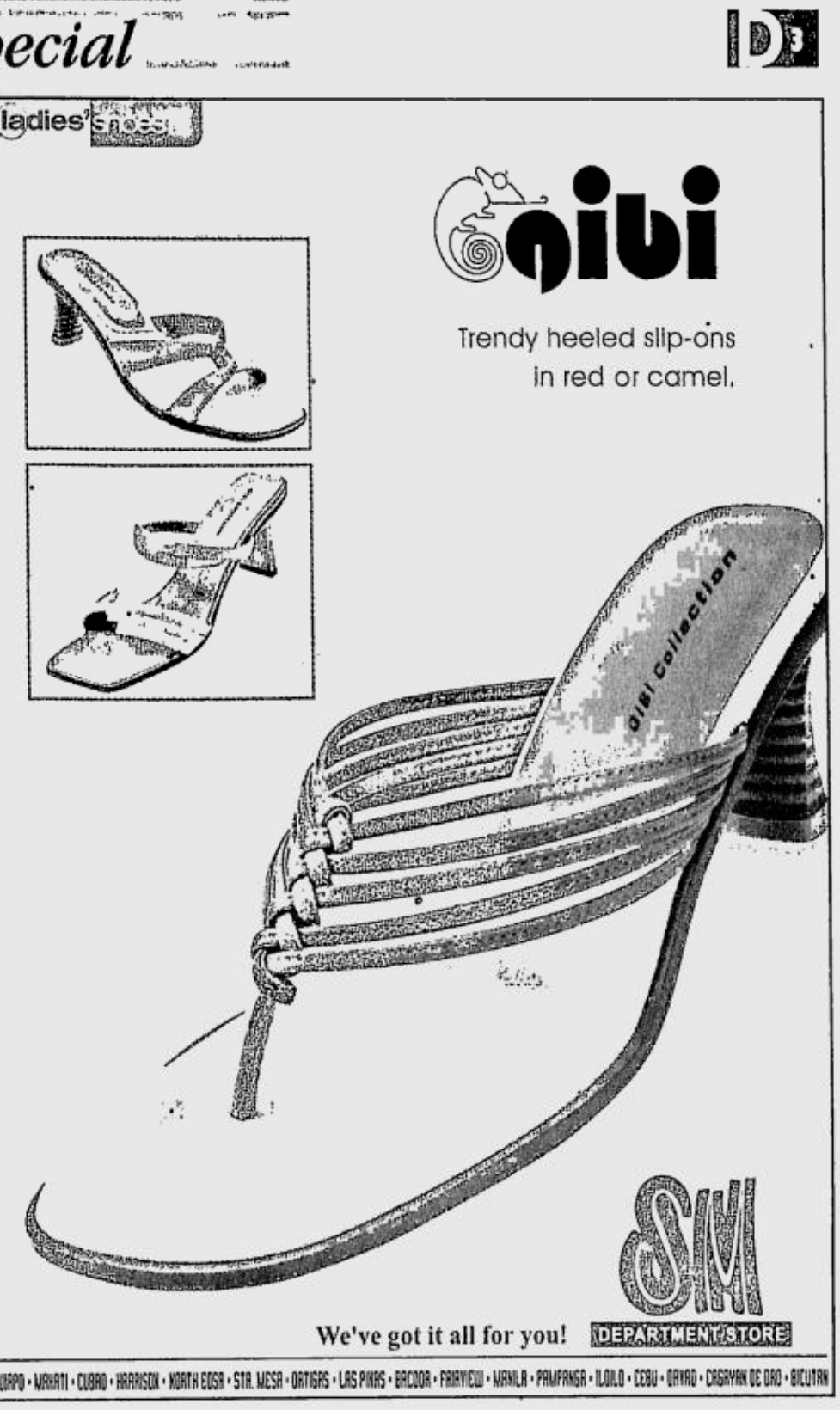
My condition has improved considerably. It is also a great blessing that I am not afraid of dying. I know that misery is part of material life.

Birth, disease, old age and death are things we have to accept and deal with.

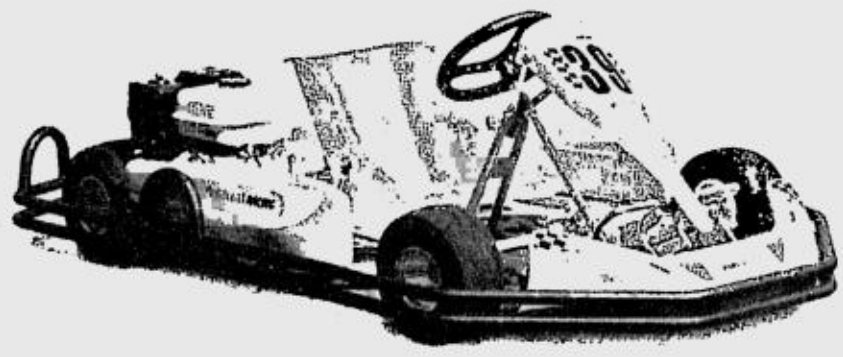
In spite of the pain and problems, there are wonderful things to be relished—the spiritual gifts that fill our life with meaning, contentment and peace.

Email lotuspond108@hotmail.com

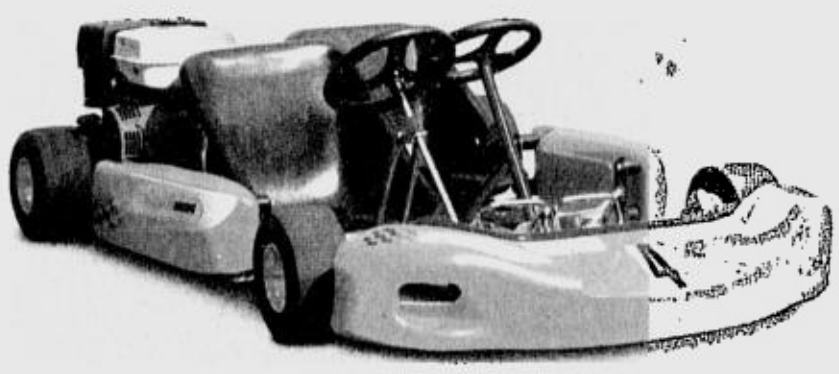




Enchanted Kingdom



For father's laps.



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Local, foreign acts come up with exciting new albums

By Nestor U. Torre

OVER the course of 12 years, five studio albums and one live compilation, Mary J. Blige has become known for her potent R & B and hip-hop "mantras" that have a compelling, sometimes even hypnotic effect on listeners.

Back to her roots

Her latest CD, "Love & Life," takes Mary back to her roots and reunites her with Sean "P. Diddy" Combs, the producer-performer who crowned her Queen of Hip-Hop Soul.

Mary co-wrote 17 of her new album's 18 tracks, and her new songs evince her growth as a performer.

For her part, Corsican singer Alizée was only 15 when her first track, "Moi . . . Lolita" was released. It had a big impact on songwriter-producers Mylene Farmer and Laurent Boutonnat, who subsequently showcased her talent in her first album, "Gourmandises."

Two years and four million albums later, Alizée has made her mark in Europe, and is now out to reach listeners in other music markets. To give her the big push needed, she's just released a new single, "J'en al marre," and her second album, "Mes Courants Electriques."

Another young looker, Lene Nystron, has came up with her new album, "Play With Me," with promising

LENE. Tongue-in-cheek sense of humor.

cuts that could beef up her list of hits, which includes "Barbie Girl" and "Dr. Jones."

Comic-strip imagery

"Play With Me" has given up the loud comic-strip imagery of Lene's Aqua period, but it retains the tongue-in-cheek sense of humor that's at the core of her music.

Songs in the new album include such potential winners as "Here We Go," "Virgin Superstar," "Pretty Young Thing" and "Scream."

On the local recording scene, "Jose," the all-Filipino album of Fil-Am Broadway star Jose Llana, is clicking with listeners. Leading the compilation's line-up of songs is "To Love You Once Again," which Louie Ocampo dedicated to his wife on their wedding anniversary.

Other highlights: Jose's duet with Regine Velasquez of Ryan Cayabyab's "Iduyan Mo." A new arrangement of "You Are My Song." And "Nais Ko," another Cayabyab composition that features "Star for A Night" champion Sarah Geronimo.

Songsmiths

Other songsmiths represented in Llana's album are Rey Valera, Ogie ALcasid, George Canseco, Willy Cruz and Danny Tan.

Llana will resume touring with "Flower Drum Song" in the States until early next year. But he might get a break soon, so he could fly back here for more performances.

Michael Santana has recorded the Tagalog version of F4's "Can't Help Fallin'" as his latest single for Star Records. The cut is included in the "Solo" album that features Michael with two other performing singers, King Girado and Divo Bayer. The album was launched on "ASAP Mania" last Sept. 14.

RECENTLY-ordained priests perform "Oh Pare, Pare," a take-off on F4's hit song.

Stirring tribute to Cardinal Sin

PRIESTS, nuns and members of the laity held their own alongside veteran vocalists who performed in "Serviam," the tribute concert staged recently at the Araneta Coliseum to honor Jaime Cardinal Sin on his 75th birthday. There were morning, afternoon and gala shows, all for the Cardinal's favorite beneficiaries—Caritas Manila, the youth, seminarians and catechists.

Pure inspiration

The show was pure inspiration from beginning to end, and did not come across as "churchy." In fact, religion aside, the quality of the performances was quite remarkable, thanks to the expert direction of Leo Rialp.

Robert Seña was particularly awe-inspiring. He led the opening number with priests, nuns and seminarian choirs in an interpretation of "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," and returned to the stage for "Great Is Thy Faithfulness."

Although nursing a cold, Jose Mari Chan didn't skip a beat when he crooned the old ditty "Remember When," said to be one of Cardinal Sin's favorite tunes. Bituin Escalante's voice reverberated throughout the coliseum as she belted out "Joyful Joyful."

Upbeat tunes

But what brought the house down were the numbers featuring priests singing upbeat tunes. Those F4 guys would have been shaken a bit if they saw the group of young clergy do their take on "O Pare, Pare" (to the tune of "Oh Baby, Baby"), complete with F4 outfits. Equally hilarious was the performance of six Priests in the City.

Inspiring numbers were also rendered by guest artists like Jamie Rivera, Cocoy Laurel, Agot Isidro, Dessa, Karylle, Anna Fegi and RJ Rosales, and the bishops of the Archdiocese of Manila, who serenaded the cardinal with "Impossible Dream" and "I Believe."

After the curtains come down—what?

By Behn Cervantes

I KNEW it was inevitable. Everything comes to an end, after all, although after three months of close contact during rehearsals and performances, cast, crew and director had formed a special bond.

It wasn't a bed of roses for the group because I work hard and drive others to work at the same fevered pitch.

Initial jitters

Nevertheless, the play's 14 performances came to an end on Aug. 30. The cast had gotten over the initial jitters and was now in control, a main reason I advocate many performances. Acting is about doing, and being in command of the situation.

The play had SRO attendance and even got a standing ovation during one show. Cast and crew had learned to thrill in and love performing, and enjoyed the rapport they had with a live audience. Before the closing performance, cast members were asking, "What now?"

How to fill the vacuum after a stint of three months when long hours were focused on rehearsals? Marj Manlulu, who alternated in the role of the young bride of an *ilustrado* Katipunero, be-

SANTOS. Demanding role.

moaned, "Life is so ordinary now."

I chose this young English teacher for the difficult role because I noted she had depth, grace and sincerity, as well as intelligence the first time I met her. I knew those qualities would help in her acting debut in Amelia Lapeña Bonifacio's "Pagbibinyag Sa Apoy at Dugo," Dr. Fulgencio Soriano's translation of Amelia's period play, "Walking Canes and Fans."

He was already Gem to me although he was a former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Gem was responsible for fetching me in Manila, usually on Thursdays. He would then drive me for hours to the Central Luzon State University (CLSU) in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, then take me back to Manila on a Sunday.

There were significant "getting-to-know-you" traumas for the cast, to be sure. My fast pace and no-nonsense approach were not the style on the leisurely campus. However, they entrusted themselves to me and left their wounded pride at home, or kept it covert. Dean Malu Abon stoically showed the way.

14 performances

The play ran 14 performances, a "first" for an institution where the record number was three. There are offers for repeats, as well. Malu tapped faculty members and students to appear and work in the play, getting volunteers to feed cast and crew during the arduous rehearsals.

Her confidence in a quiet Chemistry teacher who supervised the construction of the set was repaid by a finely constructed Intramuros living room, along with the little artistic touches that Cesar Ortinero added.

Jojo Dizon, a Protestant pastor, gave me the chorus to underscore the drama inherent in the play. The 10 members were reliable, pleasant and were soon helping out with backstage chores.

Soloist Barry Santiago is a leading man type with discipline and humility going for him. There was cohesion and cooperation demonstrated by the

AFTER/ D6

Ivory Records goes acoustic at 20

A MASS marked the recent celebration of Ivory Records' 20th anniversary, and was immediately followed by entertainment provided by the acoustic group "Make Your Momma Proud," who recently signed up with the company.

Problems

"We have existed this long despite the problems of the music industry. We hope to keep giving deserving artists the breaks due them," says Antonio Ocampo, president of Ivory Records, which he founded in 1983.

It was on Aug. 11, 10 days before Ninoy Aquino was assassinated, when the Ivory office was inaugurated in the Greenhills area.

Soon, the country was in turmoil, an oil crisis erupted, greatly affecting the record business, because the raw materials it used greatly depended on oil.

"What a time to start a new company! But, with God's help, we survived," says Tony.

The artists who started their singing careers with Ivory include The Company, Side A, Manilyn Reynes, Carol Banawa, April Boy Regino and Roselle Nava.

New artists

New artists recently signed up by Ivory are Love Añover and Marielle, who used to be

OCAMPO. Has given breaks to many gifted singers.

known as Lilet.

While its thrust is centered on OPM, Ivory Records also caters to children. It is the only record company that has an outlet at SM Toy Kingdom and SM Toys Department.

"During our early years, we experimented in producing a multiplex of simple songs for children packaged in a set of four cassettes. It fared well with buyers, equaling the sales of our OPM albums. Since then, it has become a standard product of the company," Tony shares.

A Marian devotee, Tony is the first record producer to conceptualize an album tracing the history of the Rosary, and showing how to pray it correctly.

He looks forward to another 20 years of producing homegrown music and hopefully, to the eradication of piracy, which is the biggest problem of the local recording industry today.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM SEPT 27 - OCT 3

CH	4	7	5	2	9	13	41	23	33
	6:00 Meteor Garden 6:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 8:30 Home Along da Airport 9:30 Buttercup 10:30 Kontrobersyal 11:30 "F" 12:00 Sports Unlimited	7:00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8:00 The Working President 9:00 To be Announced	7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Mirror, Mirror 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 Go For Gold	6:00 Search for a Star 7:00 Imbestigador 8:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 9:30 Kakabakaba Adventures 10:30 Blockbuster Cinema 12:00 Master Showman	6:00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7:00 7 Days 8:00 John Doe 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 PGMA	5:00 PBA Provincial Game 7:00 Kilscetera 8:00 Amazing Twins 9:00 US Tennis Open 11:00 Iyo ang Katarungan	6:00 Baywatch 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 The Amazing Race 8:30 Boston Public 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Real Deal	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	5:30 CBS Evening News 6:00 E! News Weekend 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanalaym 8:30 Tanging Ina 9:30 Sunday Family Cinema *Lea Salonga: Songs from Home* 11:30 Dong Puno Tonight 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 PPBA First Filipino cup 9:00 The Working President 10:00 Concert of Various Artist	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Ispup atpb. 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 Viva Cine Idols 11:00 Speed	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 KI 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Smack Down Wrestling 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 Sunday Report	5:00 PBA First Filipino cup 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Global Family Series 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Jimmy Neutron 6:30 Futurama 7:00 Exposed 8:00 Yes Dear 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 The Bachelor 10:30 Digital Tour	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	5:30 CBS Evening News 6:00 El Coming Attractions 6:30 FYE 7:00 E! Original Specials 8:00 Rank 9:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner 10:00 Movies on E!
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:00 Basta't Kasama Kita 7:30 Meteor Fever in Manila 8:00 Daratng Ang Umaga 8:30 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 9:00 Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Misis 11:00 Insider 11:30 The Correspondents	6:00 Concert at the Park 7:00 Strangebrew 7:30 In the Raw 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Family Rosary Crusade 11:00 Auto Focus	6:00 F 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 That 70s Show 9:00 On Air 9:30 Misadventures of Maverick and Ariel 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Mad TV	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Extra Challenge 7:30 Habang Kapiling Ka 8:10 Endless Love 8:50 Narito Ang Puso Ko 9:30 Da Boy and Da Girl 11:00 Saksi 11:30 I-Witness	6:00 Dulce Maria 7:00 Just for Laffs 8:00 Jag 9:00 The Agency 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Sex & the City 11:00 OPTV	5:00 Quantum Info 6:30 Global Family Series 7:00 Japan Video Topics 9:00 Global Family Series 9:30 Fight Time at Elorde 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Linawin Natin	6:00 Beast Machines 6:30 Godzilla 7:00 Batman 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Birds of Prey 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Travel Time	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 E! News Live 7:00 Behind The Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 10:00 Best of Late Show 11:00 Wild On
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'DAISY SIETE'

Creative visual flourishes dampened by predictable storytelling

By Nestor U. Torre

ONE of the more unusual TV sitcoms now on the air is GMA-7 and Four Entertainment's weekday series, "Daisy Siete." What makes it unique is the fact that it stars, not five, not 10, but all 17 Sexbomb Girls (hence the show's title).

Desire to succeed

It's good to see so many young talents being given a chance to show what they can do every weeknight. All that youthful exuberance and desire to succeed in show biz can have a bracing effect on viewers.

Other plus factors include the Sexbomb Girls' *masa* appeal, the importance the show gives to their dancing prowess, the series' youth- and campus-oriented storylines, and Pat Perez's energetic and visually dynamic direction.

Limitations

Unfortunately, the new show has thus far failed to come together due to these liabilities, limitations and/or excesses:

The show often loses focus because it tries to involve all 17 girls in its action. While this treatment is "democratic," it's also not right for the TV medium's relatively small screen.

All those girls onscreen tend to become a blur, and it's sometimes difficult to tell one ingenue from another, despite sketchy attempts to give some of the girls identifying personality traits.

SEXBOMB GIRLS. Their youthful exuberance can have a bracing effect on viewers.

It's obvious therefore that the better way to go would be to follow different girls' storylines in separate episodes, so that each day's story would involve only, say, five of the girls as principal characters.

We note that more recent episodes of "Daisy Siete" are starting to do that, so the series should become more focused from here on in.

Predictability

Another problem is the predictability of the show's storytelling, despite its creative visual flourishes (dream sequences, musical numbers, etc.).

The girls' performances are enthusiastic but generally too raw to be comfortably empathetic. Things get particularly awkward when the girls do "dramatic" and "emotional" scenes, because they are too inexperienced to realize that less is more.

They are also overly made-up and wear outfits that call too much attention to themselves. The program would gain a lot in terms of visual realism and believability if the Sexbomb Girls didn't look so self-consciously "showy" or "fashionable" so much of the time.

Big difference

They need to be told that there's a big difference in the make-up they use for their dance performances than the more "everyday" way they should look in their non-dancing scenes in "Daisy Siete."

We find it heartening to see so many girls working so hard to make it in the biz. But they should do it the right, credible and professional way, and not expect just their popularity and enthusiasm to do the job for them.

Burgers with blue cheese

BURGERS are as popular as ever.

Being a burger fanatic, I used to visit five burger joints. Of the five, only two made an impression on me. To decide which one was better, I used to buy both burgers for a taste test. One had a delectable patty while the other had nicer buns and was juicier.

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

Treat for kids

My sister Nina told me that her family goes to this burger place. It was always a treat for the kids! Her only girl Billie loves burgers with blue cheese, but I don't like burgers with *any* cheese. I feel that it kills the taste of the patty. But since Billie and Nina were raving about it, I took a chance.

As soon as I walked into Wham, I ordered the Double Whammy with blue cheese. I interviewed the cashier and was told that another popular topping was the roasted garlic mayo.

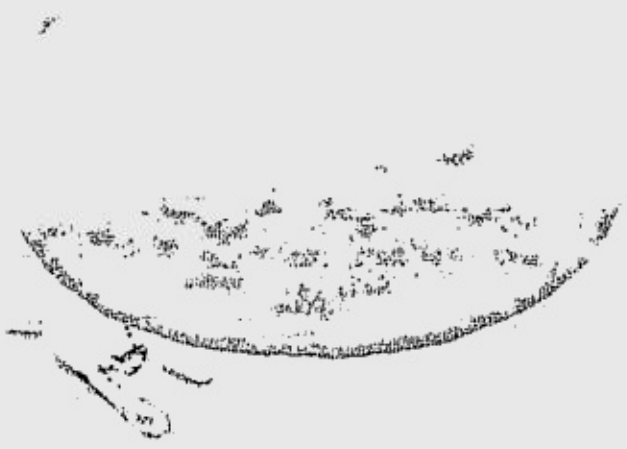
Some people use garlic mayo as a dip for the fries. My final order came down to one double Wham with blue cheese, Cross-Traxx fries, a side order of roasted garlic mayo, catsup and a cold bottle of Snapple.

The Double Whammy sandwich is composed of two thick, juicy grilled burger patties, lettuce leaf, a slice of tomato and blue cheese.

First bite

The moment I took the first bite, I closed my eyes and savored the luscious, plump burger with blue cheese. The bun was soft. Then, I squeezed some catsup on it and dipped the Cross-Traxx fries in roasted garlic mayo. Alternately, I took bites off my burger and fries. It is one of the most outstanding combinations I have ever experienced! Delicious!

BURGERS/ D6



Introducing Jack 'n Jill Spuds Potato Crisps Salt 'N Pepper! Crunchy, perfectly-sized chips showered with the tangy taste of salt and the spicy kick of pepper. Pop 'em in your mouth and make your taste buds happy.

Ive Mendes finds herself in a moment of grace

By Jocelyn Valle

GLANCING at the TV screen behind her, Brazilian chanteuse Ive Mendes shakes her head. "I brought a dress and a pair of Gucci shoes to the set," she shares, recalling the day her production team shot the video of "Natural High." "But the director told me to look natural, like the first woman, Eve."

In the video, Ive oozes with cool confidence and smoldering sex appeal.

But more than the image on the screen, she wants her audiences to understand the essence of her music called Nu-Brazil. "It's not just bossa nova," she points out. "It's like African-Caribbean. We mix different sounds. The Brazilian spirit just comes out naturally."

MENDES. Smoldering sex appeal.

Multicultural

Ive was born to a multicultural (Brazilian, Spanish, French and Portuguese), musical clan. As a child, she sang in churches and played the piano. Then, she studied music and taught creative arts to children for five years.

Upon returning to her father's farm, Ive heeded the musical yearning of her soul. She performed for family and friends until she was discovered by a Rio de Janeiro-based record producer. One of her songs eventually found its way to one of Brazil's popular soap operas.

After six years, Ive decided to seek Robin Millar, who produced Sade's first two albums, as well as the British duo Everything But the Girl. "I knew he would understand my voice," she said. "I have a voice that's like Sade's."

Ive didn't get to sit down with Millar right away. First, she had to earn her keep in a foreign land, working in a clothes shop in Camden.

When she got Millar's number from a friend, she immediately phoned the record producer and left a message on his answering machine. He was so taken by Ive's voice that he didn't lose time in returning her call.

Ive relates, "What he liked about my voice was that it's natural. He didn't want to change it. He wanted the honesty."

Short films

After promoting her first album around the world (her recent brief Manila visit included a performance at the Shangri-La mall), Ive hopes to work on a new record. She has also started appearing in European short films as an actress. These days, life couldn't be better for Ive.

A cut in her album, "Blessed Life," sums up her current state of mind. "I'm in a moment of grace," she enthuses. "I'm doing what I want do. There's love all around me!"

Barbra Streisand says she's bored by her own songs

LOS ANGELES—Barbra Streisand says she finds listening to her own songs so boring that it was one of the reasons she gave up public performing three years ago.

Interview

Streisand, 61, told Reader's Digest in an interview for its October edition that when she records an album, she gets so sick of the music that "I never listen to my records for 10 years." "Really, I just get sick of it. That's why I gave up concerts—in addition to having stage fright and the exertion of singing 30 songs a night. It's boring to sing your own songs," she said.

Streisand bid farewell in September 2000 to her sell-out career as a public performer but she emerged last year to sing at a Hollywood fundraiser for her friends in the Democratic Party.

58th recording

A new album, "The Movie Album"—her 58th recording—is due in stores in October. But Streisand told Reader's Digest she doubted whether she would embark on any more public concerts.

"It's fun to create a show, direct and conceive it—except that you have to perform it. I never think of that until it's too late," she said.

Reuters

STREISAND. Her latest recording, "The Movie Album," is due in October.

Burgers with blue cheese

From page D5

I went back two days later to make sure it wasn't my hunger that made me come to that conclusion. It still tasted great. I visited the place four times in the next five days. I hardly eat meat but Wham's burgers were simply yummy.

Owners

The owners of Wham are lovebirds Jovy and Gabby Oreta, with some partners. Wham Burgers is located along Katipunan across Blue Ridge and Pilos, just after Katips. Call them at 439-5037. They have a branch at the Shangri-La mall on the fifth floor. They also do children's parties.

Happy eating!

For feedback or tips, email sandydaza@shaw.ca

After the curtains come down—what?

From page D4

likes of Assistant Director Mark Lopez and Stage Manager Ann Vijandre. Del Soriano, a former student of Naty Crame Rogers, was a role model in all aspects of production, while another faculty member, Aida Serna, brought light and joy to rehearsals with her humor.

UP Rep alumnus Kaloy Agulto showed the younger cast members how to accept my vociferous demands.

Young revolutionary

Benjie Garcia, whom I picked out of the crowd to portray the demanding role of the young revolutionary, and Ana Lee Chan, who played his young bride, truly elated me as I watched them develop from awkward tyros to adept performers.

Ryan Santos and Marj infused the same roles with greater maturity and depth.

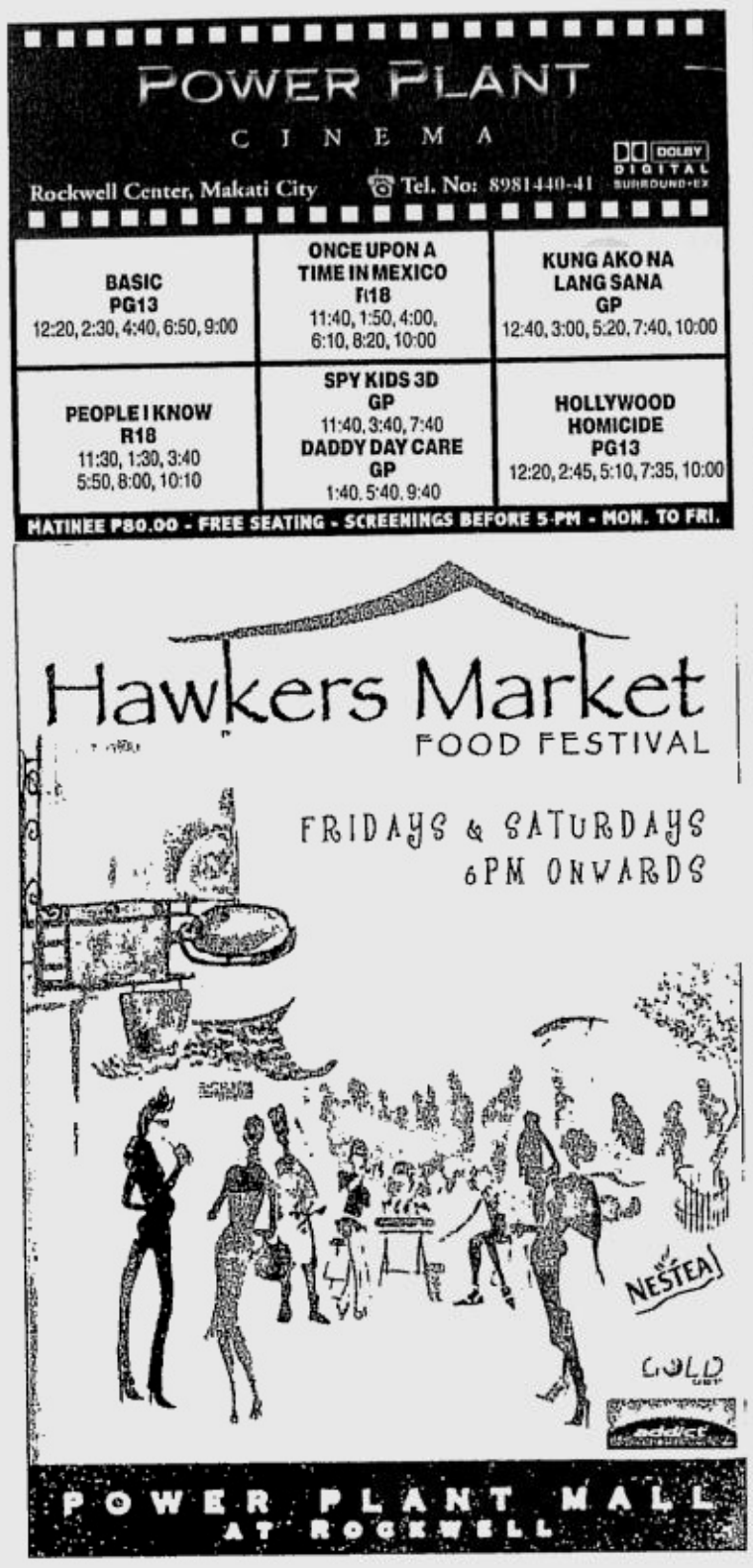
There is more to come from the likes of comedians Abby Rillon and Ann who alternated in the comic role of Angge, while Tuts Mercado(Cosme) defined what a clown is—physically pliable, endearing and original. Paul Macadangdang, who played the same role, took a little more time to create his own character. In the end, however, he came into his own.

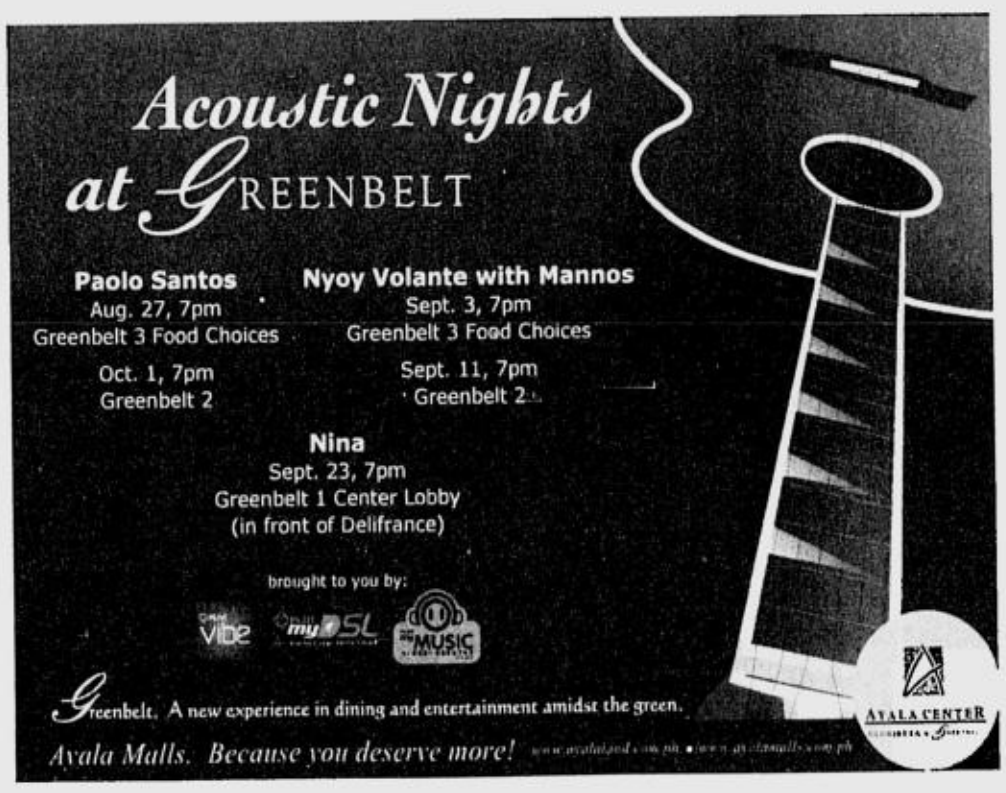
I kept eyeing students Jey Ponce, Michelle Bahala and Chailai Balutan and noted how quickly they developed into disciplined young thespians.

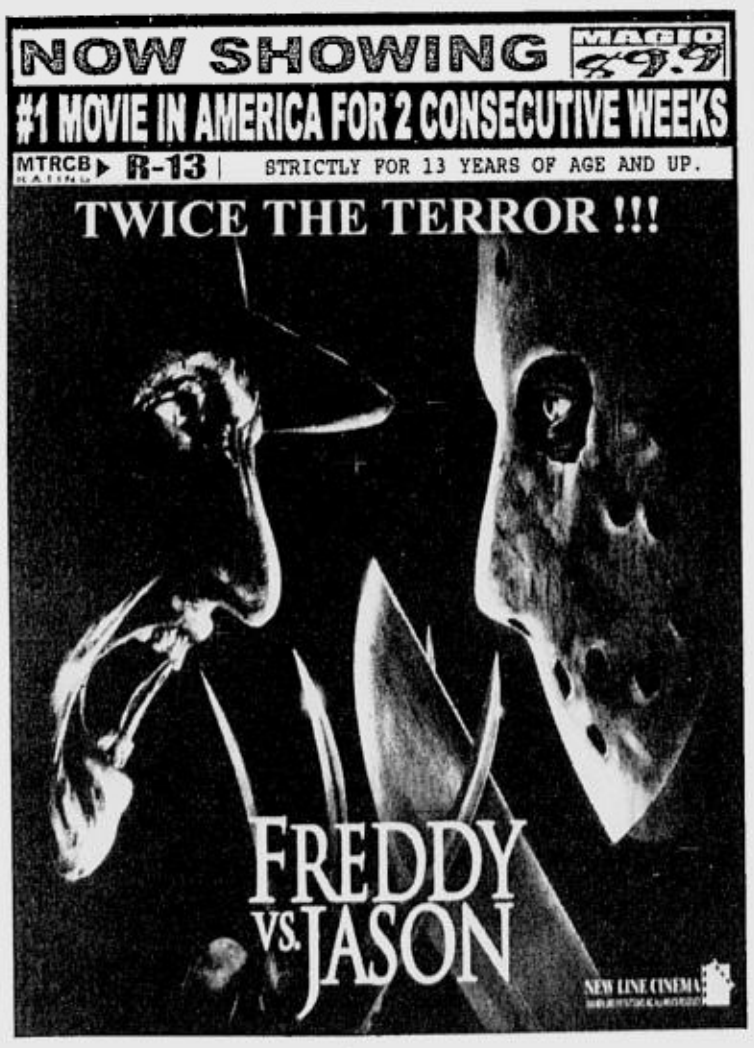
They must continue the work we started with this play. The seed has been planted. Pray CLSU provides them proper incentives to grow and flourish.

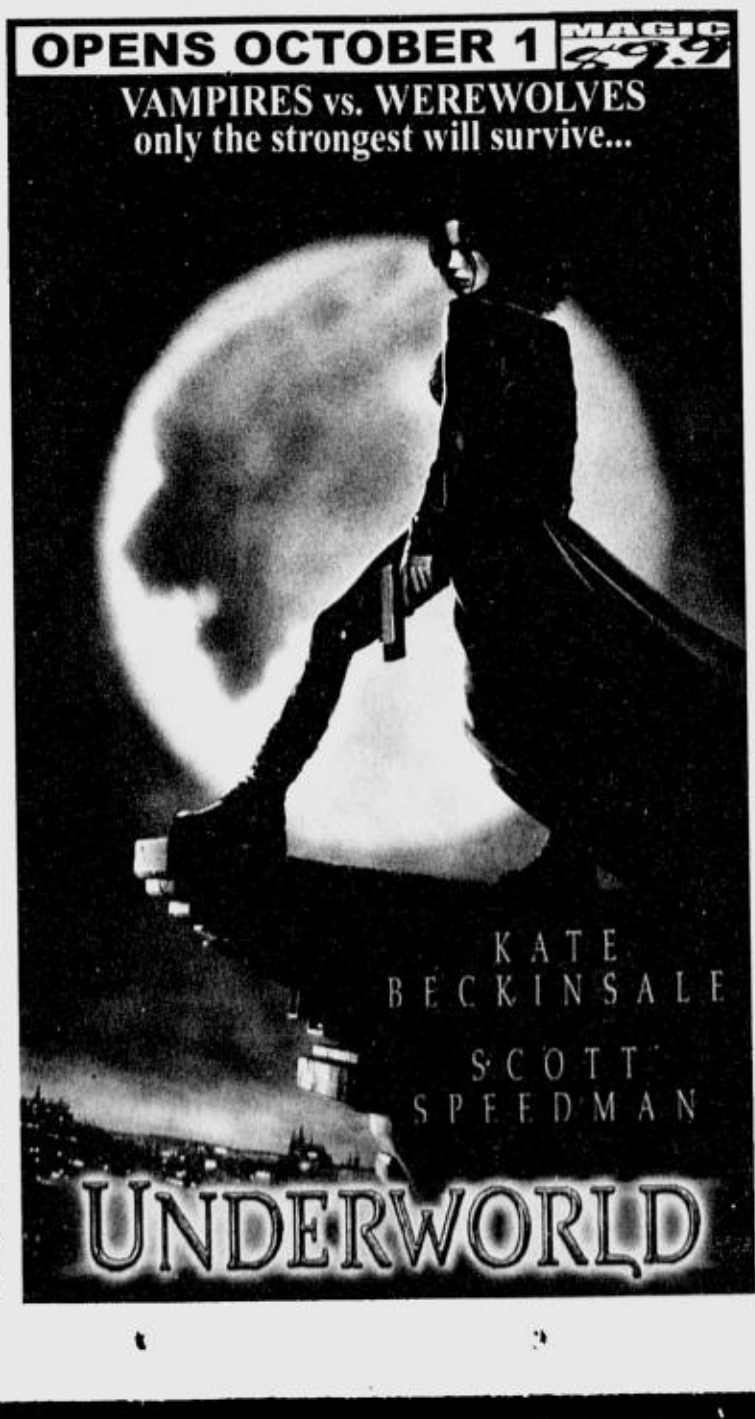
Nonoy Floresca and Ponti Abella, faculty members, both demonstrated the fine attributes of discipline and group effort. Mayette Anterola,

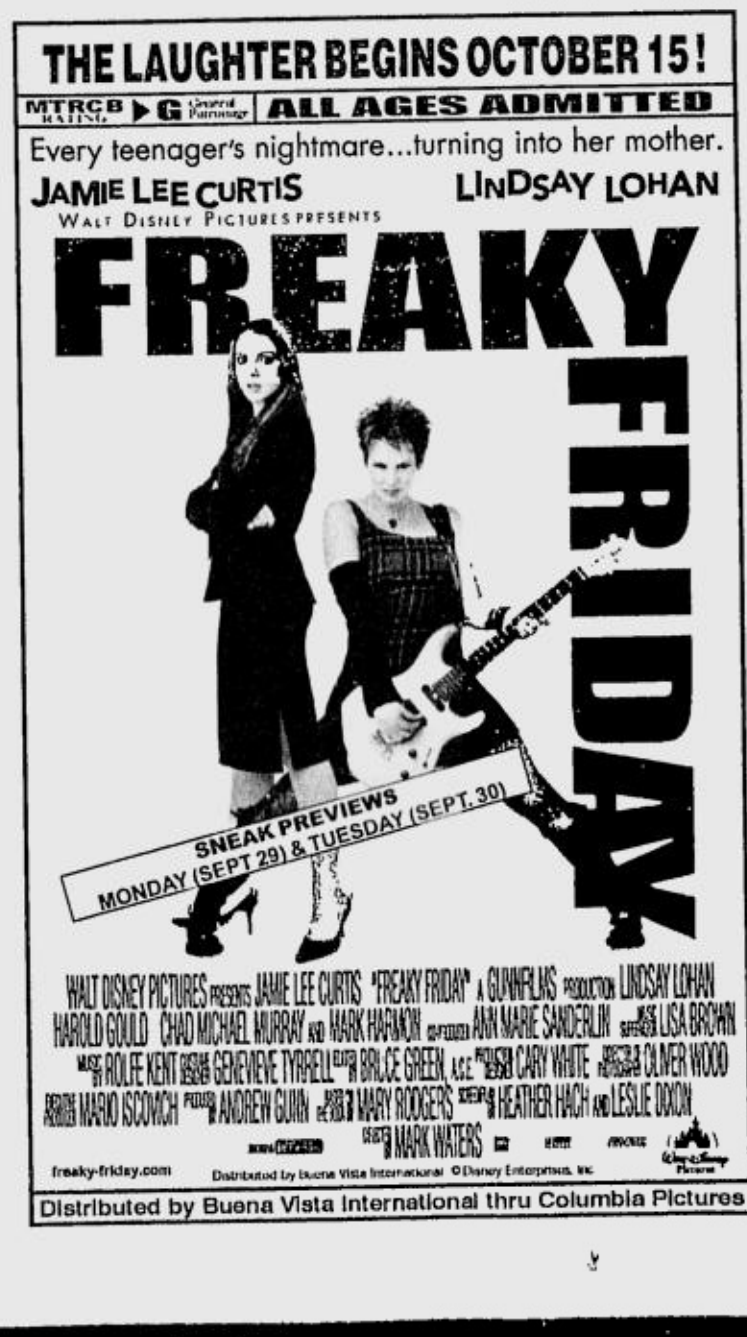
AFTER/ D7











After the curtains come down . . .

From page D6

also a teacher, took all my jibes in good stead.

Full conviction

Jonathan Bernarbe and Teddy Irabangon did anything and everything I instructed them to do. You couldn't ask for more. Teddy even delivered his Spanish lines with full conviction. Latecomer Diego Balanag made a memorable Katipunero. Monina Fandialan and Linda Alonzo worked tirelessly to feed cast and crew.

Each time I asked for "More lights, Honey," I had to smile because it isn't everyday I work with a macho student with such a name. He controlled the lights designed by Jack Ignacio and Joel Salvador.

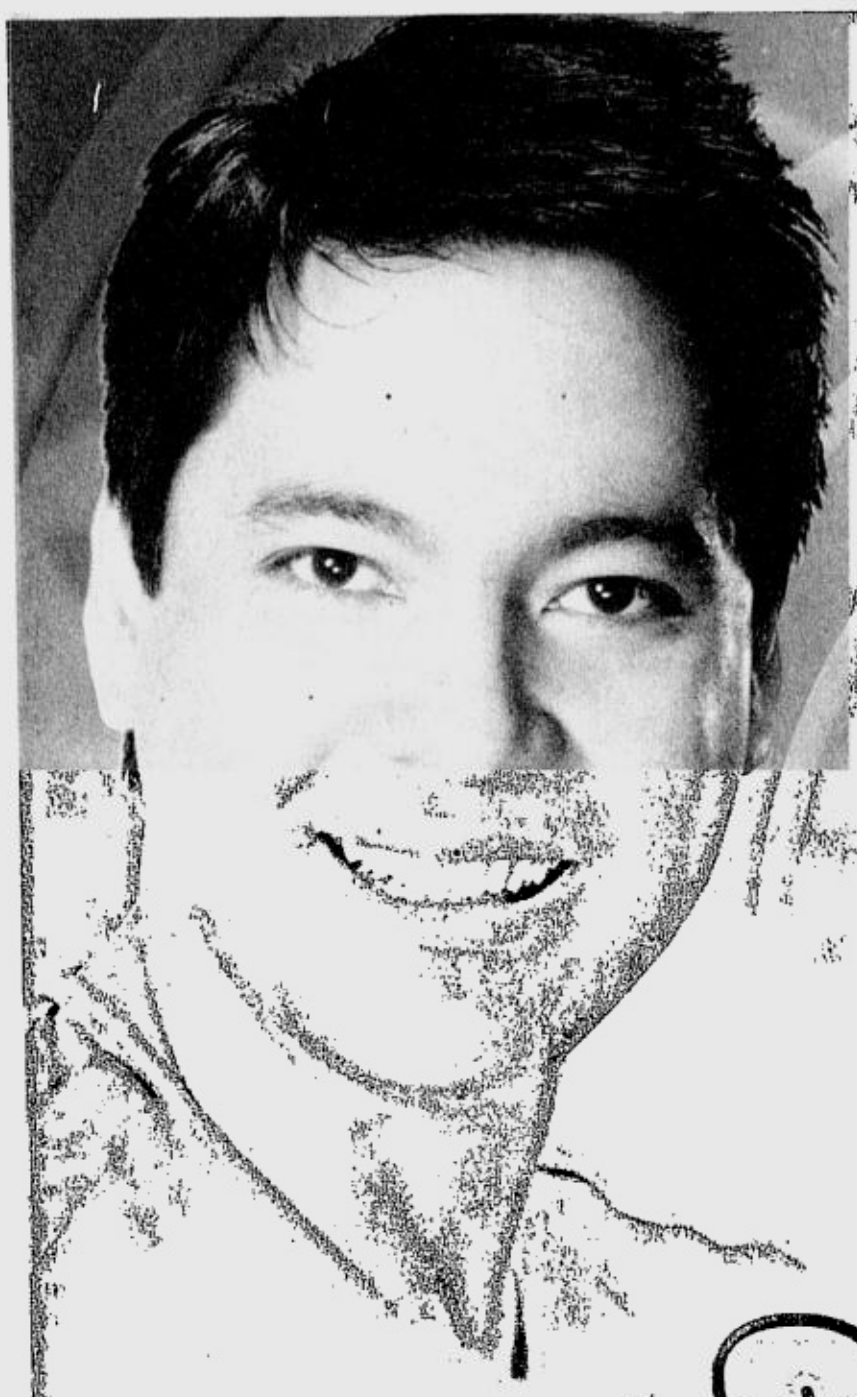
Soundman Egay Marcos, who coordinated closely with teacher Jun Dizon, was relaxing to work with since I knew he was more than dependable. "Egay what?," I shrieked the first time I heard his last name. Then, it turned out Nova, one of the dancers, was a Marcos, too. "What? Another?" I screamed in mock horror. But both were gems to work with.

Colorful memories

I begged my cast and crew to refrain from any sentimental scenes on closing night. Despite many plays and colorful memories, I must say I felt a tinge of sorrow, nevertheless. I had gotten to know these talents well, learned to adjust to their pace, and thoroughly enjoyed watching them develop so quickly and so well, despite many challenges.

One wrote, "Thank you for sharing so much with us." Another said, "Thank you for touching our lives." But, you gave me so much in return, I want them to know. Another said, "Sir, we will always love you."

Now that distance is in my favor, I have the courage to say to all of them, "So will I!"



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Liana's Discount City, Calamba, Laguna *GF, center*
Family Choice Megamart, Isabela *Main Entrance Lobby*
Plaza Maestro, Vigan *Main Lobby*
5 Sisters Superstore, Lanag *Main Lobby*
NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija *Atrium 4*
Pacific Mall, Lucena, Quezon *GF, Fountain Area*

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SM Iloilo *LGF, East Wing in front of Aficionado Kiosk*
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SM Davao *GF Atrium, between Chowking & Prestige*
Cindy's Zamora, Tacloban *Entrance*
Mindpro Citimall, Zamboanga *Ground Floor*
Gaisano, General Santos *GF, in front of grocery store*

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2551, 2433, 2621 and 3940, Series of 2003.

SPRINGSTEEN. Cinematic vision of teeange romanticism. AP

Springsteen tops Beatles for most popular album

NEW YORK—Bruce Springsteen is indeed the boss, beating the Beatles and all others for making the most popular album of all time, according to Zagat Survey's "Music Guide."

Ratings

Zagat's new 332-page guide lists the top 1,000 albums of all time, according to ratings from more than 10,500 music aficionados. Topping the guide's most popular list is Springsteen's "Born to Run," with the Beatles' "Abbey Road" and "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" taking second and third places, respectively.

Survey participants applauded Springsteen's 1975 breakthrough album for its "cinematic vision of American teenage romanticism" and its "promise of the endless Saturday night." "Abbey Road," on the other hand, was praised by one participant as "the Sistine Chapel of rock 'n' roll."

Rankings

Rounding out the "most popular" top 10 list are U2's "The Joshua Tree," the Beatles' "The White Album," Miles Davis's "Kind of Blue," Springsteen's "Darkness on the Edge of Town," The Beatles' "Revolver," Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon" and U2's "Achtung Baby." *Reuters*

CUNETA AND MUHLACH. Lively and felt performances.

Sharon-Aga starrer graded 'B' by CEB

By Nestor U. Torre

STARTING this issue, we're running the summation of Cinema Evaluation Board members' comments on films found worthy of amusement tax rebates by the CEB (formerly known as the Film Ratings Board), the incentives arm of the Film Development Council of the Philippines, headed by Laurice Guillen-Feleo.

Incentive

The CEB's chair is Zeneida Amador. After each screening of a Filipino film submitted for evaluation, she leads discussions on the movie's plus and minus points, then the members determine if the film deserves to be given an incentive for superior work.

If the answer is in the affirmative, it is then decided whether the film should be graded "B" (65 percent amusement tax rebate) or "A" (100 percent rebate).

The CEB urges viewers to patronize films graded "A" or "B," because their makers work harder to do better work than usual. It is hoped that the viewing public will support the efforts of our better filmmakers, so the day will soon come when more producers and directors are encouraged to make outstanding films, resulting in a win-win situation for the movie industry and viewers alike.

This week, the Filipino film to see is "Kung Ako na Lang Sana," starring Sharon Cuneta and Aga Muhlach, as this appreciative evaluation by the CEB will attest:

'Kung Ako na Lang Sana'

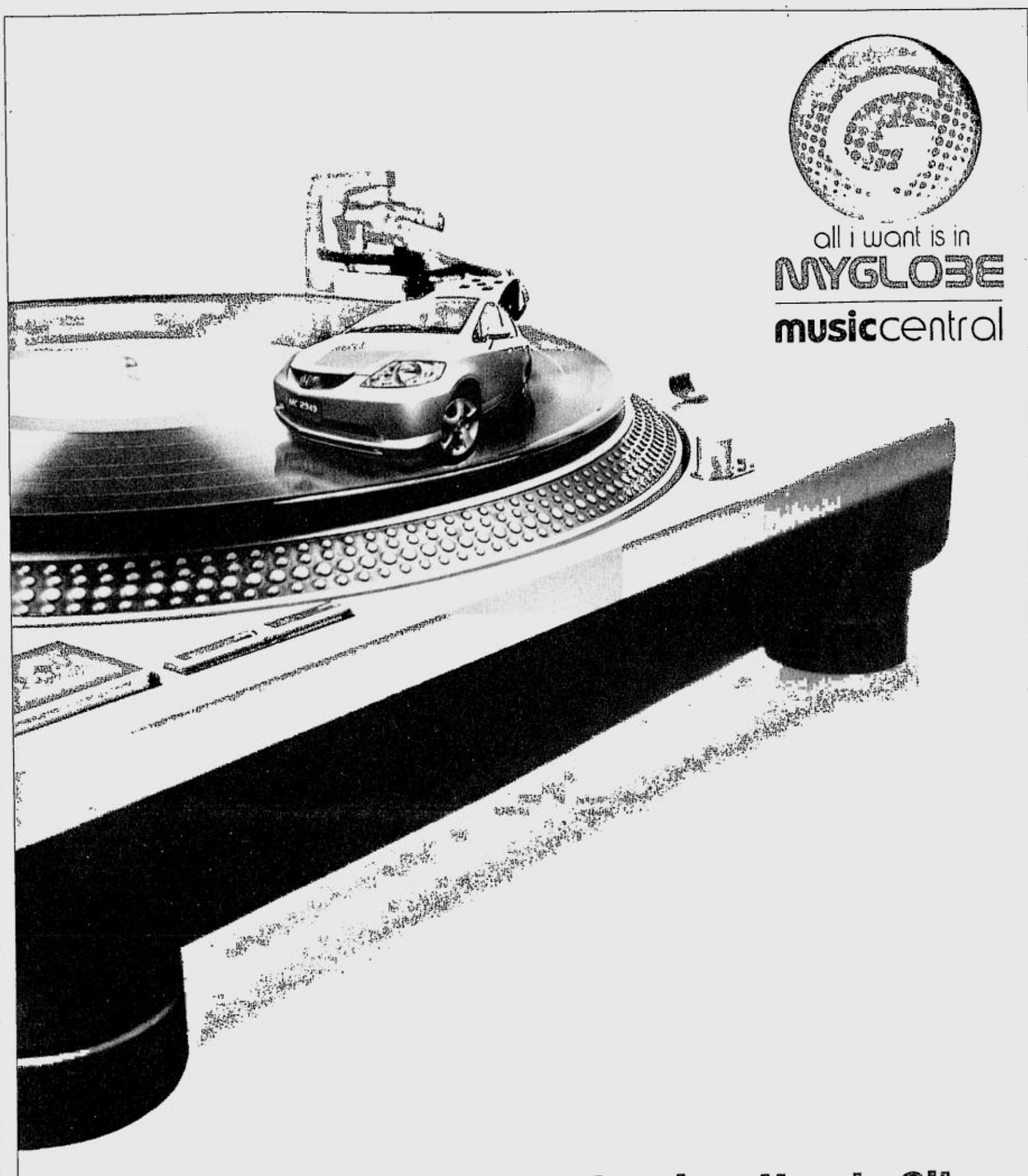
After a lengthy discussion, a clear majority of the members present found the Star Cinema film by Jose Javier Reyes worthy of incentives, and graded it "B," for these reasons:

On the plus side, the CEB members agreed that the film's emphases on character and personal relationships rather than plot was a welcome departure from standard filmmaking practice in the Philippines.

Also deemed praiseworthy were the movie's ensemble theme, good values, entertaining dialogue, "accessible but not condescending" treatment, lively and felt performances, generally good production values, and affecting depiction of a deep friendship that turns into romantic love.

Conversely, these debit points were cited: character depiction and development were uneven, some situations lacked believability, the vocal dubbing was flat, and the pacing of the movie's first half was too frenetic.

Despite these points, however, the CEB members felt that the movie's plus factors clearly shone through, making "Kung Ako na Lang Sana" one of the more estimable movies produced in 2003.



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Popstar
RINGTONE: N1
POLYTONE: T1
WALL PAPER: C1
LYRICS: LY1

(There's Gotta Be) More to Life
Stacie Orrico
Stacie Orrico
RINGTONE: N2
POLYTONE: T2
WALLPAPER: C2
LYRICS: LY2

Baby Boy
Beyonce
Dangerously In Love
RINGTONE: N3
POLYTONE: T3
WALLPAPER: FREE*
LYRICS: LY3

Officially Missing You
Tamia
Still
RINGTONE: N4
POLYTONE: T4
WALLPAPER: C3
LYRICS: LY4

Thoia Thoing
R. Kelly
R In R & B Collection
RINGTONE: N5
POLYTONE: T5
WALLPAPER: C4
LYRICS: LY5

I'm Still Here
Vertical Horizon
Go
RINGTONE: N6
POLYTONE: T6
WALL PAPER: C5
LYRICS: LY6

Overjoyed
Paolo Santos
Playlist
RINGTONE: N7
POLYTONE: T7
WALLPAPER: C6
LYRICS: LY7

Can We Still Be Friends
Mandy Moore
Coverage
RINGTONE: N8
POLYTONE: T8
WALLPAPER: FREE*
LYRICS: LY8

Breathe
Michelle Branch
Hotel Paper
RINGTONE: N9
POLYTONE: T9
WALLPAPER: C7
LYRICS: LY9

Where Is The Love
The Black Eyed Peas
feat. Justin Timberlake
Elephunk
RINGTONE: N10
POLYTONE: T10
WALLPAPER: C8
LYRICS: LY10

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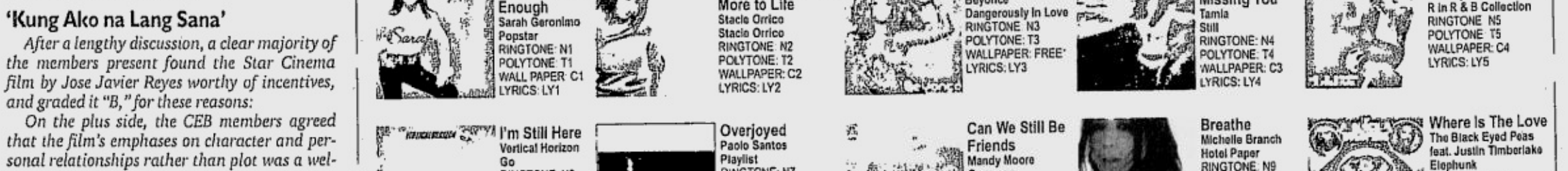

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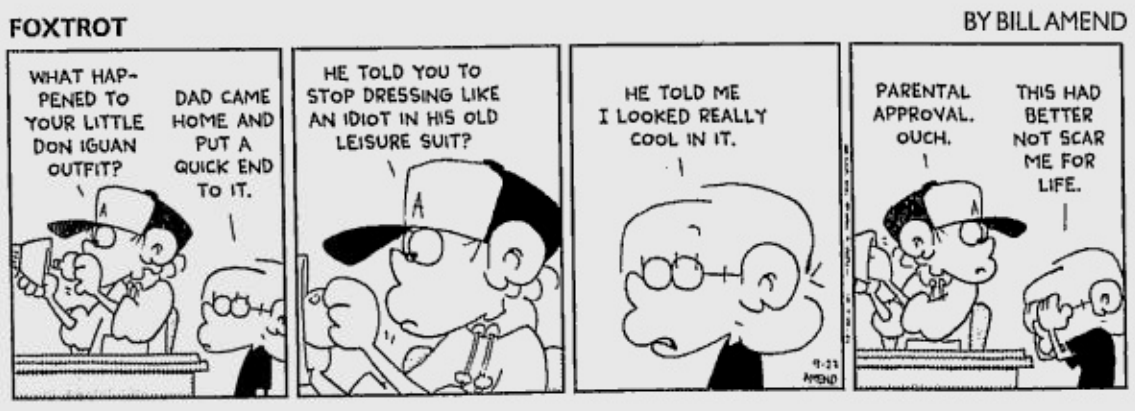


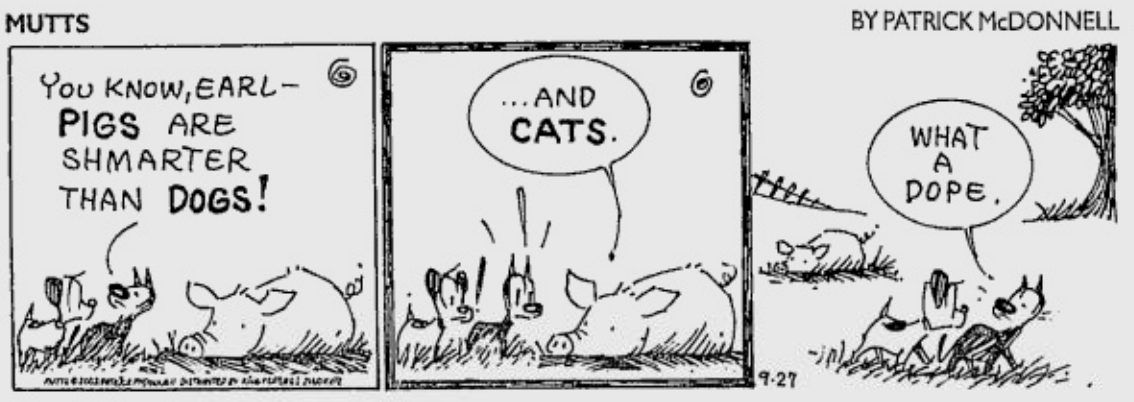
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

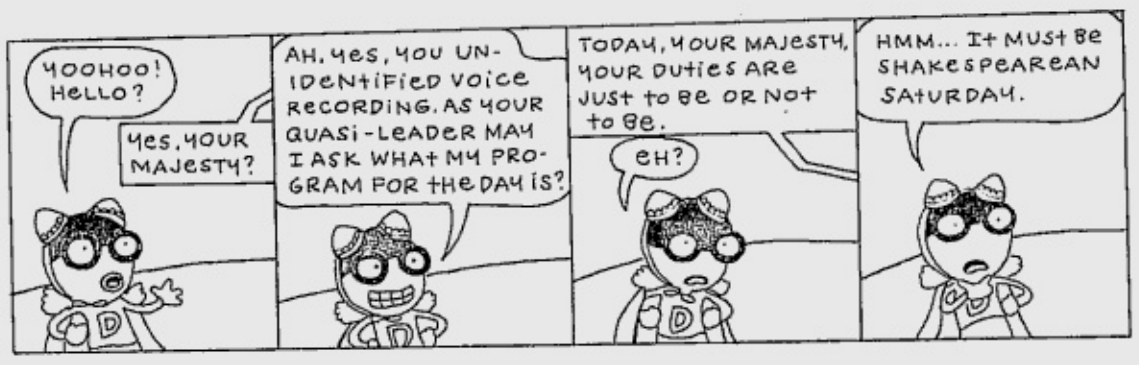
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO



DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are a curious combination of being a rather public person and at the same time quite private. You have very high standards for yourself. You love to explore many different avenues of life. You often seek satisfaction outside of your work. Great changes await you this year. (You will welcome them.)
Birthdate of: Avril Lavigne, singer; Jayne Meadows, actress; Wilford Brimley, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You feel energized and more positive about your future today. That is because your ruler, Mars, today turns "direct." Once again, you feel you are in control of your life.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You feel much stronger today in your ability to relate to groups, friends and organizations. You are quite determined to get things done.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your ambition is truly aroused now! Although thwarted temporarily, you see that you are now back on track and ready to do business. Good.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Travel plans or matters connected with publishing and education now get the green light you have been waiting for. You can move forward with confidence, because doors will open for you.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Now you finally get clearance about shared property, loans, mortgages, debts and the joint ownership of things. Be very clear about what you intend to do and what you don't intend to do.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You will need to be extra-patient dealing with partners and close friends. Antagonism and aggression arise easily. (Remember that anger serves no purpose other than to make everyone miserable.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You are ready to assume the mantle of supervising or directing the efforts of others now. You have very clear goals about what you want to achieve.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your creative efforts can produce stunning results now. Be extra-patient dealing with children. (You are more powerful and intimidating than you know.)

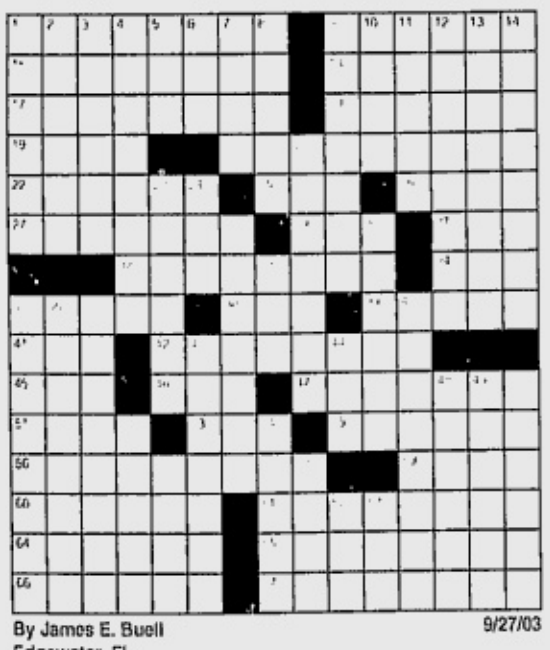
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Dig right in and clear up matters at home. Chaos due to renovations, visiting guests or residential moves requires a lot of work right now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your abilities to convince, persuade, teach and negotiate are unusually strong now. This means you can do practically whatever you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Expect to be spending more money in the immediate future. Fortunately, you have the energy to earn good money as well now.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Because Mars is in your sign for so long this year (that's because it hasn't been this close to planet Earth in 60,000 years), you're stoked! Be patient with others. Try to be more tolerant and understanding.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL
9/27/03

ACROSS
1 Desktop accessory
9 Bring out
15 Secret identity
16 Jipijapa hat
17 Shipping routes
18 Overwhelms
19 Satirist Mort
20 Like some chocolates
22 Takeout tool?
25 Our star
26 Ireland
27 Equivalent word
29 Tennessee player, for short
31 Whippoorwill bill
32 Daisy species
34 Greek cross
35 Fantasy genre
38 Frisco hill
39 In touch with
41 Multi-computer syst.
42 U-2, e.g.
45 Altar of stars
46 Water tester
47 Lures into difficulty
51 Ritzy
53 Young boy
55 Small bird
56 Wrinkle remover
59 Diminutive suffix
60 Flower with two lips
61 Track announcement
64 At the scene
65 Required
66 Rock on the edge
67 Warhol subjects

DOWN
1 Catholic services
2 Legendary Chicago cow owner
3 Salt Lake City resident
4 Gets rid of on the market
5 Time of note
6 Writing implement
7 Quite a while
8 Prescribed amounts
9 Fifth Greek letter
10 Hard and fast rules
11 Thunderstruck
12 Inherited
13 Majestic
14 Gustatory organ
21 Not fixed
23 Sign up
24 Deli loaf
28 Unit of measurement of work
30 Structure with a single-pitch roof
33 Improvisational style of jazz
35 Ice hockey stroke
36 Squash pigment
37 Sort of
40 Airtight
43 More mannerly
44 Opp. of 27A
48 Head of the Huns
49 Some coal miners
50 Chargers
52 Addiction
54 Jerks
57 Tiny bit
58 Taboo
62 "The Simpsons" character Disco __
63 Keg feature

Friday's Puzzle Solved

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9/27/03

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

Visit the Mikrokosmos Art Exhibit at Papemelroti Cafe, 91 Roces Ave., QC - Sep. 15 to Oct. 11 2003

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

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Oscar Best Foreign Film winner screened in local theaters

DO try to catch "Nowhere in Africa," 2002 Oscar winner for Best Foreign Film, during its current run in local theaters. The German film is directed by Caroline Link, only the second woman (after Marleen Gorris, who did "Antonia's Line") to have megged a Best Foreign Film Oscar winner.

"Nowhere in Africa" is about the escape of an affluent Jewish family to Africa shortly before World War II. The family escaped the horrors of Hitler's anti-semitic rampage in Europe, but it had to endure terrible hardships in the African wilderness.

The film dramatizes the difficulties experienced by Jettel, Walter and their young daughter Regina when they settle in a farm in Kenya in 1938. Forced to abandon their comfortable life, they find themselves facing a different enemy in the harsh realities of their new life.

The movie has a universal message that has moved viewers everywhere, and enabled the production to stand out against a field of other worthy contenders, which included Pedro Almodovar's acclaimed "Hable Con Ella" (Talk to Her).

Movies on TV

On HBO: Sept. 27 at 2 p.m., "Almost Famous." Sept. 28 at 9:45 p.m., "Vanilla Sky." Sept. 29 at 6:30 a.m., "Wit." 1:30 p.m., "Artificial Intelligence." Sept. 30 at 1:45 p.m., "Enemy at the Gates."

Oct. 1 at 2:45 a.m., "Angel Eyes." Oct 2 at 6 a.m., "National Lampoon's European Vacation." Oct. 3 at 9 p.m., "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone."

On Cinemax: Sept. 27 at 7:30 a.m., "The Money Pit." Sept. 28 at 11 a.m., "The Rudy Giuliani Story." Sept. 29 at 9 p.m., "MacArthur." Sept. 30 at 6 a.m., "Not of This World."

Oct. 1 at 8 a.m., "3000 Miles to Graceland." Oct. 2 at 6:30 a.m., "Memphis Belle." 2:30 p.m., "Cape Fear." 7:30 p.m., "The Enemy Within."

MTV Mad Dash winners

The MTV Mad Dash held its final round recently, with the Blue Team winning P150,000, smart MMS Amazing Phones, and gift items from Caltex Vortex and Pepsi X Energy Cola.

Celebrities joined the five finalist teams—Kenji Marquez for Blue, Christian Vasquez for Orange, Jon Hall for Yellow, Antoinette Taus for Green and Lexi Schulze for Red.

The finalist teams searched for clues, solved puzzles, entered mazes, found hidden vans and a monster, decoded cryptic messages, encoding them via their Smart MMS-powered cell phones.

The victory party was hosted by VJ KC Montero and Chinggay Andrada. The Sugarfree and 7 Shots of Wisdom bands performed.

San Miguel Music Festival

Weekends at The Podium will be filled with the harmony of the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra and Master Chorale.

"Lambingan" at 9 p.m. today features love songs from all over the world. On Sept. 28 at 5 p.m., "Symphony for Kids" features melodies from animated movies and other films.

Closing activity

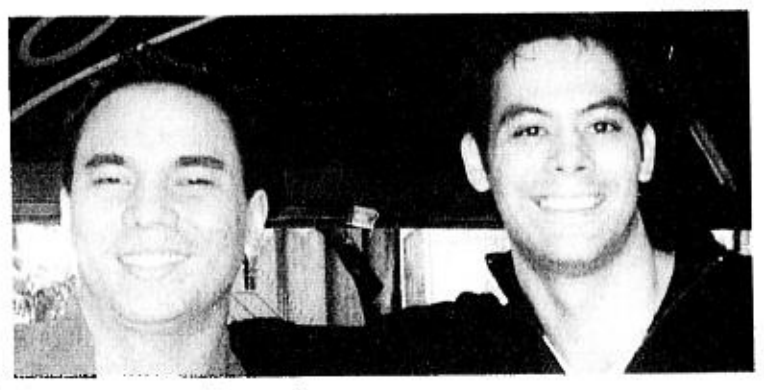
The closing activity of the Filipino Heritage Festival will be held at 4 p.m. on Sept. 28 at the Westin Philippine Plaza hotel. It features a vinta regatta and a kite art show.

'Notti Sensuali Al Bravo'

Top DJs Adrian Cuenca and Wendell Garcia play relaxing house music at Bravo! Ristorante Italiano's Notti Sensuali Al Bravo evenings every Saturday at 10 p.m. Bravo! is located in Malate.

New album

Carol Banawa's new album, "Follow Your Heart," will be launched on "ASAP Mania" on Sept. 28. Carol will be promoting the album at 4 p.m. on Oct. 3 at SM Fairview, Oct. 4 at SM North Edsa, Oct. 12 at SM Bacoor and Oct. 13 at SM Southmall.



DJs Cuenca and Garcia play relaxing music at Bravo! Ristorante Italiano.

'To Seduce an Enemy'

At 9 p.m., on Sept. 28, Star Mandarin Movies screens "To Seduce an Enemy," starring Theresa Mak and Leung Man Yee. Murder, suicide, sex slaves and revenge figure strongly in the crime thriller's plot.

'Songs from Home'

Lea Salonga's recent concert, "Songs from Home," will be shown on Channel 2 on Sept. 28, right after "Ang Tanging Ina." Lea performs OPM songs with Ogie Alcasid and Ariel Rivera.

NIEVERA. Repeat engagement in Las Vegas.

World-class acts in local shows

By Bibsy M. Carballo

IT was a busy weekend with Martin Nievera at Onstage, Pilita and Jackielou at Music Museum, and Anna Fegi and Bituin Escalante at Serendipity. We managed to watch all performances and got our feel of local world-class talents. What impressive performers they were!

Dry run

Martin's three-weekend series, "Martin Nievera—On the Road to Vegas," (remaining performance, Sept. 27), was a kind of dry run for his upcoming repeat engagement at the Golden Nugget (where Frank Sinatra once held court).

Having watched Martin many times before, we were pleased at his turnaround, from balladeer to Las Vegas showman.

His repertoire consisted mostly of fast songs, some ballads and Broadway showtunes. They gave Martin a chance to move and groove onstage.

Upbeat songs

Even the Sinatra medley consisted of upbeat songs—"I've Got You Under My Skin," "Witchcraft," "Come Fly With Me." These songs showcased a new Martin.

Martin shared that what won him his Las Vegas stints was the fact that they were looking for someone who could sing Broadway. *That* he can do—and how! At the concert, he performed songs from " Miss Saigon," "Les Miserables," "Phantom of the Opera," "Cats," "West Side Story" and "Jekyll and Hyde."

Over at Music Museum, Pilita Corrales and daughter Jackielou Blanco, new singer Dexter, plus Robby Soul from the Platters, gave the audience a rare chance to see what has made Pilita Asia's Queen of Songs.

It showed off the buffed, new Jackielou. Not only did Jackie, now proudly 39, look better, but she also sounded better. She did a mean opening number—a combination Argentinian tango and salsa, with Ruben Enguio. It showed off her great form and sense of timing, including acrobatic flips in the air!

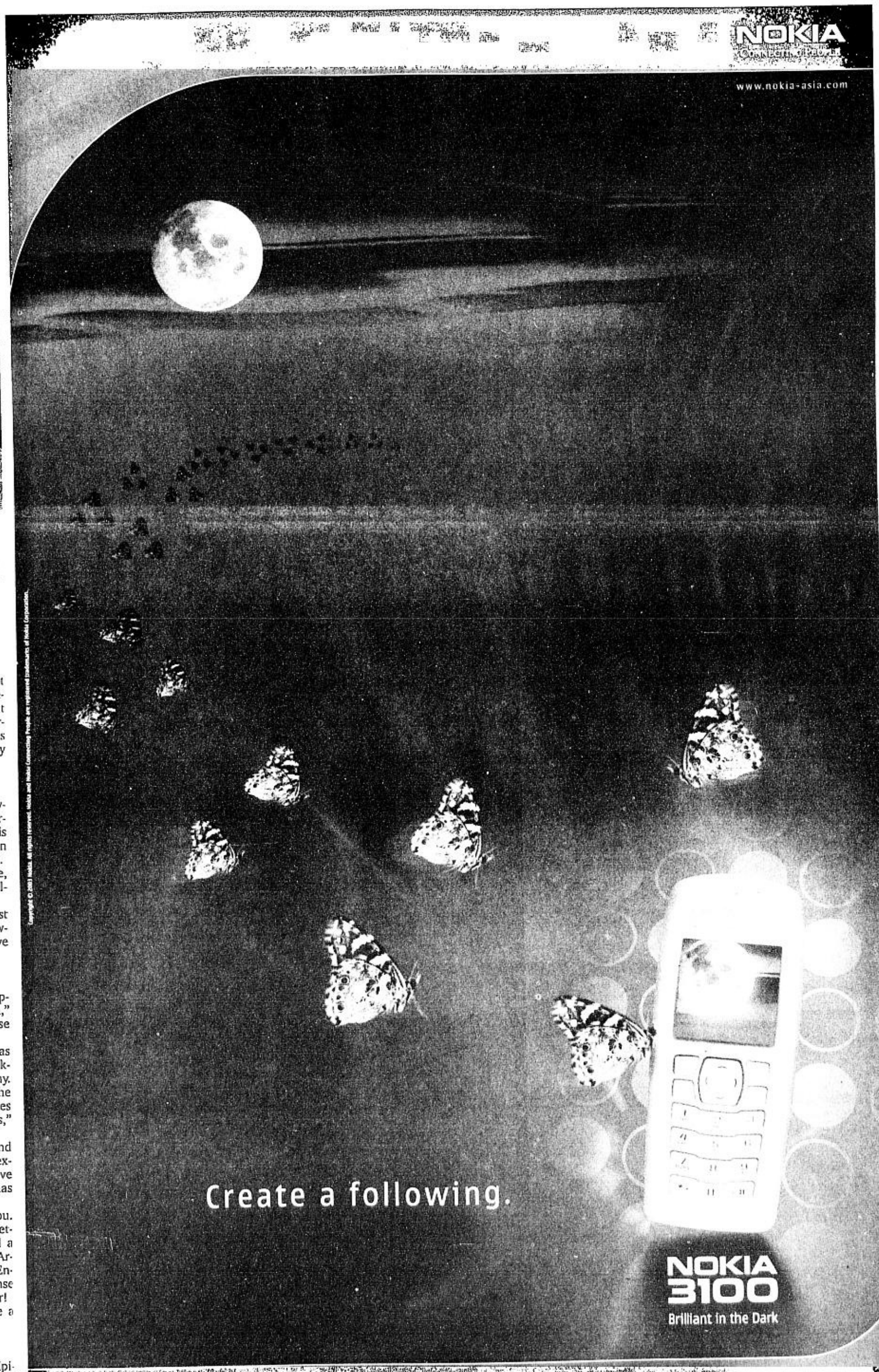
Someone should give Pilita and Jackie a back-to-back concert, pronto.

Intimate concert

Meanwhile, at Discovery Suites' Serendipity lounge, Crossover presented a one-night intimate concert featuring Anna Fegi and Bituin Escalante, with Bond Samson at the grand piano.

Anna and Bituin complement each other—one is an alto, the other a soprano. They have honed their partnership almost to perfection. They should do more shows together, both here and abroad!

Email the author at bibsymcar@yahoo.com



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Mr. Suave	Parokya Ni Edgar	TONE MRSUAVE
Unwell	Matchbox 20	TONE UNWELL
Can't Lose You	F4	TONE CANTLOSE
Broken Vow	Lara Fabian	TONE BROKEN
Where Is The Love	Black Eyed Peas	TONE WERISLUV
Here We Are	F4	TONE HEREWE
Crazy In Love	Beyonce	TONE CRAZYIN
Get Busy	Sean Paul	TONE GETBUSY
Buffalo Soldier	Bob Marley	TONE BUFFALO
Panaginip	Jolina Magdangal	TONE PANAGINIP
Faint	Linkin Park	TONE FAINT
Going Under	Evanescence	TONE GOINGU
If You're Not The One	Daniel Bedingfield	TONE IFYOURNOT
I Know What You Want	Busta Rhymes And Mariah	TONE IKNOWAT
Keep On Singing My Song	Christina Aguilera	TONE KEEPON
We Are The Champions	Queen	TONE CHAMPIONS
Love Me For A Reason	Osmonds	TONE LOVEME
Senorita	Justin Timberlake	TONE SENOR
All I Have	Jennifer Lopez	TONE ALLIHAVE
Ang Tipo Kong Lalake	Deejay Alvaro	TONE TIPO
My Friend	Vaness Wu	TONE MYFRND
Not Gonna Get Us	TATU	TONE NOTGONNA
Asereje	Las Ketchup	TONE ASEREJE
A.D.I.D.A.S.	Killer Mike	TONE ADIDAS
Kumukutikutitap	Joey Albert	TONE KUTITAP
Baby Boy	Beyonce Knowles	TONE BABYBOY
So Into You	Fabolous And Ashanti	TONE INTOU
Stuck	Stacy Orrico	TONE STUCK
Here With Me	Dido	TONE HEREWITH

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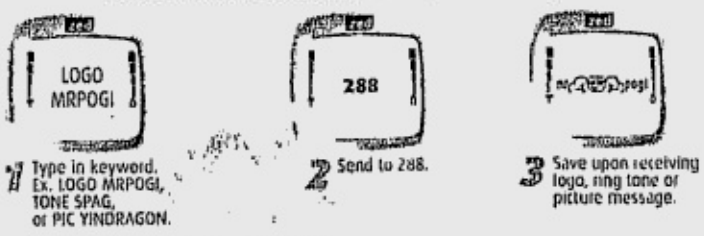

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SMART Simply Amazing!

SATURDAY *Special*

2003 EMMY AWARDS

Fresher, funnier and more varied

By Nestor U. Torre

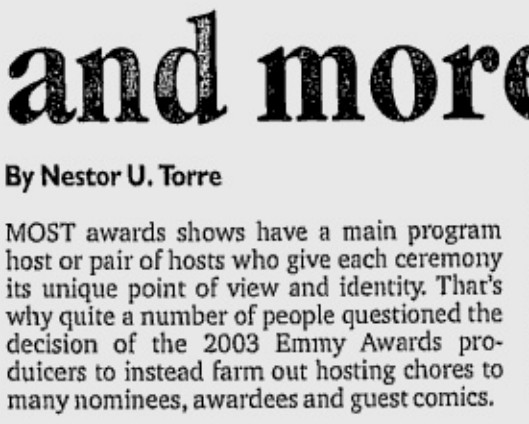
MOST awards shows have a main program host or pair of hosts who give each ceremony its unique point of view and identity. That's why quite a number of people questioned the decision of the 2003 Emmy Awards producers to instead farm out hosting chores to many nominees, awardees and guest comics.

Fine objective

The idea was to imbue the awards rites with greater freshness, variety and humor. This was a fine objective, but the fear was that the show would end up a big mess, with so many competitive individuals doing *anything*, including standing on their heads while juggling 12 Emmy trophies, to grab viewers' attention.

Well, after viewing the three-hour-long Emmy rites live on Studio 23, we can happily report that all those naysayers' fear have turned out to be groundless.

Yes, there were some goofy and goony attention-grabbers, but on the whole, the program held together, didn't stray from its original intent, and was indeed fresher, more varied and funnier than earlier editions of the TV awards presentation.



COSBY. Takes great joy in helping others. REUTERS

Evening of tributes

In fact, it turned out to be an evening of tributes, as TV stalwarts like Bob Hope, Bill Cosby and John Ritter were praised to high heavens by their peers.

Hope had the biggest eulogizer of all in the person of Walter Cronkite, a television legend himself. Already in his 80s, Cronkite is still in good health—a major reason for celebration for TV people, whose stressful profession generally sidelines its practitioners long before they become octogenarians.

Cronkite described Hope as a treasure trove of humor. Cronkite also figured, but not as the lead eulogizer, in another tribute, this time the conferment of the lifetime achievement award on Bill Cosby. Other celebrities who heaped praises on Cosby included Carl Reiner, Jerry Seinfeld, Ray Romano, Bernie Mack and Oprah Winfrey.

They lauded Cosby for his talent, heart and generosity, all of which are huge. Romano recalled Cosby's instruction to young comedians working with him: Don't try to be funny, just tell the story. Winfrey said she loved Cosby for "taking great joy in helping others." And a little-known fact about Cosby was revealed: he has a Ph.D in Education.

Unscripted response

In his unscripted response, Cosby set a high tone for the entire awards ceremonies when he ended with a tribute of his own—to the educational TV legend, Fred Rogers.

For his part, Martin Short did the funniest star turn of all when he sang an impromptu tribute, not to the winners, but to the *losers* in the Emmy awards competitions. Here's a paraphrase of the lyrics to his "musical tribute to the overlooked:"

"Here's to the losers, we toast your shame. You've brought dishonor to the family name. Here's to the failures, oh how we hate them. If you need more proof, ask J Lo and Ben. Here's to the washouts who finish last—your careers are dead!"

Short legitimized his focus on the "overlooked" this way: "We need them because, if there were no losers, there would be no one to look down on!"

And, to any loser in the audience who might have felt insulted by Short's left-handed "tribute," he offered this disclaimer, which he said was a direct quote of what David Gest said to Liza Minnelli on their honeymoon night: "No hard feelings!"

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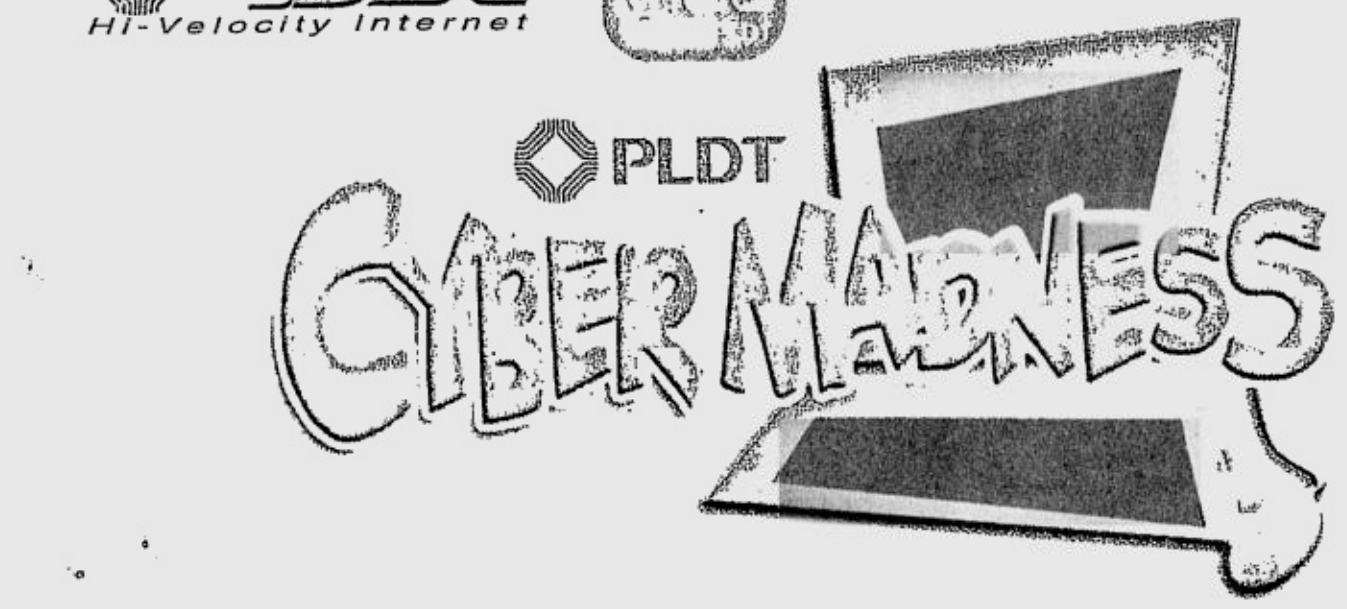

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Pops reveals sentimental side in Crossover show

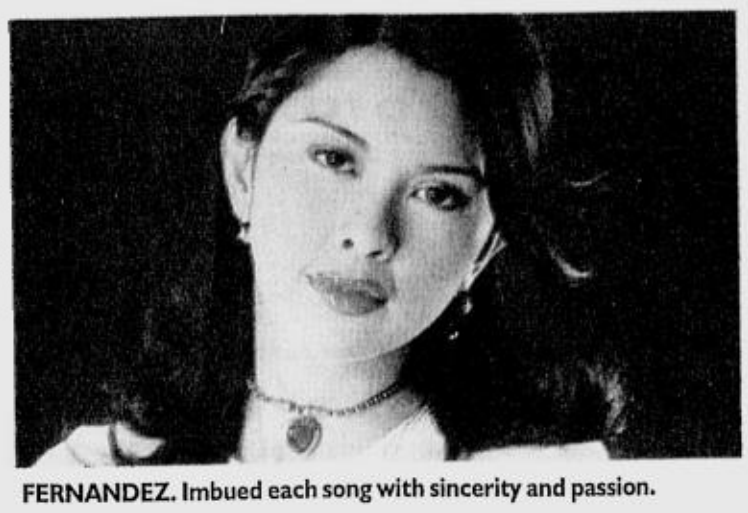
By Mary Ann A. Bautista

IT was drizzling but the Captain's Bar at the Mandarin hotel was filled to the rafters when Chad Borja and Pops Fernandez recently performed for Crossover Presents.

Worth the wait

The show started a bit late, but when Chad dished out songs like "Let's Pretend," "What Might Have Been" and "Someone Just Like You," it was worth the wait. His voice was intense and sincere. He made the ladies swoon when he sang "You Are So Beautiful," and was rewarded with loud applause.

The momentum picked up when Pops sashayed onstage in a body-hugging black gown as she sang "Say A Little Prayer" and "Do You Love Me." She lent a sultry, girlish appeal to those songs.



FERNANDEZ. Imbued each song with sincerity and passion.

She showed her romantic and sentimental side with "Don't Say Goodbye" and "Kaya Pala." Her voice was filled with longing.

Her versions of "Nearness of You," "Didn't We" and "Anything for You" made us believe once again in love and romance.

"By Heart" and Heaven" are romantic ballads but Pops gave them a laid-back appeal. Her voice was filled with yearning, sadness, love and hope.

Pops infused soul and passion with a bit of sauciness into "Every Little Thing."

Medleys

Her Corrs medleys got a lukewarm response but two songs ("Never Really Loved You Anyway" and "All The Love In The World) stood out because of her vibrant singing.

Pops sang two duets ("It's You" and "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang") with Chad because the audience clamored for more.

"If You Could" revved us up to ask for more songs and Pops obliged with a Basia medley, which left us enthralled. Then she amused us with her short version of the "Spaghetti" song.

ESPINOSA (left) and Orozco will perform at the festival next month.

Spanish ¡Fiesta! in October

OCTOBER is Spanish month in the Philippines. Instituto Cervantes, the Spanish Cultural Center, has organized ¡Fiesta! Spanish Festival for Culture and the Arts with an exciting variety of cultural events.

Language and culture

Instituto Cervantes was founded by the Spanish government to promote the Spanish language and cultures of Spanish-speaking countries.

Through ¡Fiesta!, Instituto Cervantes offers Filipinos a global vision of Spanish culture: from dances, songs and guitars, to food, wine , movies and other visual arts. As Director Javier Galván puts it: "We are here to obliterate stereotypes and to improve the relationship between the Philippines and Spanish-speaking countries through culture."

Highlight

The highlight of ¡Fiesta! 2003 is an authentic Spanish flamenco group, Nuevo Ballet Español, winner of the Best Flamenco Dance company in 2000. For the first time in Asia, they will perform at the Meralco Theater on Oct. 3 and 4.

Among the famous classical guitarists coming are the Barcelona Guitar Quartet and Jorge Orozco, who wowed local audiences last year.

Another second timer in the Philippines is Ana Luisa Espinosa, who will perform in two concerts, interpreting Spanish zarzuelas.

A romantic night of poetry and guitar is set for Oct. 13. In commemoration of the birth centenary of Pablo Neruda, Instituto Cervantes presents a tribute to the poet. Jorge Orozco will also perform at the event.

Pelikula: Spanish Film Festival will show eight selected award-winning titles at Greenbelt 1 from Oct. 16 to 26. Spanish film director Bruno Lázaro will come to present his film "It's For You" for its Manila premiere. "El Bola" (The Ball"), winner of four Goya awards including Best Picture, is scheduled to open the filmfest.

Play

A Spanish play will be presented by Dulaang UP, a Filipino adaptation of Federico Garcia Lorca's "The Butterfly's Evil Spell."

Exhibits will be available for art enthusiasts. The impressive exhibit of digital art, "Impresiones," combining modernity with antiquity, will feature works produced in Spain by artists from various countries.

Works of finalists in the 8th Letras y Figuras Painting Contest will be displayed at The Podium. The awards night will be on Oct. 17.

Chef

Instituto Cervantes, in collaboration with Hyatt Hotel, is also bringing to the Philippines Chef Luis Martinez to entice Filipino gourmets to savor Spanish fare.

There will be two Spanish Wine Festivals at the Hyatt and at Puerta Real, Intramuros.

And finally, a Street Party on Oct. 18 at the Puerta Real Gardens. The evening's highlight will be a giant paella as is customarily done in Spain—the biggest paella ever in Manila!

Elegant distillation of leadership and management precepts

By Nestor U. Torre

ON Oct. 1, the Asian Institute of Management is launching the book, "Ten Universal Principles of Great Art and Their Applications to Leadership and Management," a colorful and inspiring photo-essay by Prof. Eduardo A. Morato Jr., Dean of the AIM W. Sycip Graduate School of Business.

Most important aspects

The book is an elegant distillation of the most important aspects of great leadership and management, uniquely rendered by Prof. Morato's words and images.

We have attended an AIM lecture in which Prof. Morato advanced his ideas and insights along these lines, and found them seminal and provocative.

The concepts are trailblazing because they seek to link two areas—art and management—which used to be regarded as radically divergent, even polar opposites. And yet, Prof. Morato is able to fuse these two disciplines by citing their striking commonalities.

This goes a long way in tearing down the walls dividing art and business, and is thus a valuable contribution to the symbiotic development of artists and entrepreneurs.

Interactive use

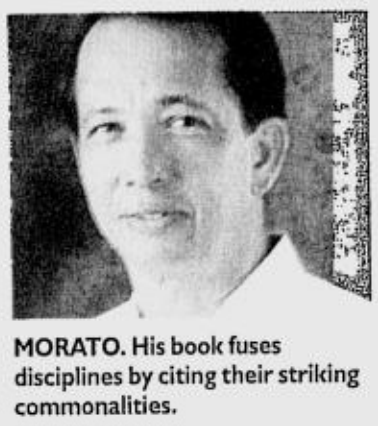
As they learn to make interactive use of the aptitudes they share, they can expand their potential: businessmen can become more sensitive and insightful people, while some artists can lose the ivory-tower mentality and poverty orientation that has pulled them down in the past.

It's no surprise that Prof. Morato has been thinking along these lines, because he championed the entire AIM Renaissance movement that has expanded the scope and relevance of the famous business school.

Launched two years ago, the Renaissance movement has enabled AIM to branch out into new, nontraditional areas of management, like art, health and education.

More specifically, it gave birth to the institute's Managing the Arts Program (MAP), which is publishing the special edition of Prof. Morato's book.

An award-winning photographer, Prof. Morato was the Dean of the entire institute from 2000 to 2002. He holds the Gaston Z. Ortigas Sr. Chair in Development Management and has been on the AIM faculty since 1975.



MORATO. His book fuses disciplines by citing their striking commonalities.

As a result of his long involvement in teaching, business and government, Prof. Morato has written major publications on business and development management, to which "Ten Universal Principles..." is the latest addition.

Foreword

In her foreword to the book, Prof. Cecile B. Manikan, Program Director of MAP, observes: "In October of 2001, AIM welcomed its first batch of artist-managers. The discipline of the manager and the inspiration of the artist, the tension between creative discovery and logical synthesis—this was the Managing the Arts Program's challenge.

"This is nowhere presented as fully as in the words and photographs in this book. It captures the true spirit of MAP. Edmo's craftmanship and mastery of the two artforms highlight the feat of "whole brain" thinking. His work illustrates the marriage of logic's brilliance with the aesthetics of creative imagination.

Proceeds

"With Edmo's permission and blessing, all proceeds of this book will go to the MAP Scholarship Fund, to enable more artist-managers to experience the voyage of discoveries of the Managing the Arts Program"

The book launching activities on Oct. 1 (at the AIM Conference Center) start at 3 p.m. with a special two-hour lecture by Prof. Morato on "Leadership and Spirituality."

At 6 p.m., there will be cocktails, then the book will be launched. An exhibit of Prof. Morato's book posters and photo art will also be unveiled, followed by an auction of the photo art.

You're so vain!

SHOW BIZ Q&A

Rito P. Asilo

FROM Maridel Pena: "I enjoy your fun facts about celebrities and the amusing information you gather about the eccentricities for which some stars are known for. More, please!"

There's no business like show business, indeed.

Show biz is a highly competitive profession. Sometimes, perceived "eccentricities" are born out of need more than peculiarity. Vanity is prevalent even among men because of their need to always look their best—or else, younger, fresher faces would steal the show from them!

With much amusement, we read an item entertainment website Page Six filed early this year at the Sundance Film Festival. It noted that at Robert Redford's Utah event, it was *not* the women who wanted to be made-up! Celebrities like Alec Baldwin and Al Pacino ensured that they looked their best at the high-profile event by donning make-up at festival sorties.

PACINO. Wanted to look his best.

Baldwin, Kim Basinger's handsome former husband, reportedly summoned a team of Mac make-up artists to "revitalize" his face. Likewise, Robert Downey Jr. needed to hide a sunburn acquired while skiing, while Oliver Stone, William H. Macy and Pacino all stopped by the Mac room for their respective touch-ups.

More on Brad Pitt

Brad Pitt admits that his marriage to "Friends" star Jennifer Aniston gives him emotional security. In an interview with "Us Weekly," he says, "Being married means I can break wind and eat ice cream in bed."

The New York Daily News recently reported that Pitt has plans to remake James Dean's 1955 movie, "East of Eden." The actor has approached the estate of John Steinbeck to secure the movie rights. But remaking a well-loved classic is always a daunting task.

One dilemma Brad recently had was whether or not to buy a copy of the new DVD release of his career-turning performance in "Thelma in Louise." The new copy features unseen footage of his sex scenes with Geena Davis that he'd hoped had long been extinct.

Cinemagoers only got a sampling of the full scene—because most of it was left out of the film. Pitt recalls, "We shot it so many different ways. I was so nervous. It was my first shot at the big leagues. In one scene, Geena was sitting on my lap while we were naked—which was really odd with people moving around, going about their jobs like it was a normal Monday."

Pitt admits those scenes reminded him of one of his most embarrassing and "uplifting" moments. He adds, "You ask yourself, 'What happens if your body reacts involuntarily?' and I ran into that predicament then!"

Despite the trappings of wealth and celebrity, Pitt says the people around him keep him humble. He explains, "You know, I telephoned my grandparents sometime ago. My grandfather said to me, 'We saw your movie.' 'Which one?,' I asked. Then, he shouted, 'Betty, what was the name of that movie I didn't like?' I thought that was just classic! If that doesn't keep your feet on the ground, what would?"

'Monique Sings Gershwin' tonight

Monique Wilson returns to the concert scene tonight as she launches her international album of Gershwin songs at the new Republic of Malate Theater. Recorded in Japan, the album earned a 9.8 rating from a top jazz critic in that country. Call New Voice at 896-5497.

MICHAEL BUBLÉ

Synergy of old charm and juvenile glee

By Ronald G. Mangubat

"WOW! Filipinos, I love you!" shouted the 25-year-old Canadian crooner Michael Bublé during his recent free mini-show *cum* autograph-signing session at the Podium. The crowd was a mix of old and young fans who queued up as early as 2 p.m. and patiently waited for the six o'clock show.

Singing sensation

Bublé made an instant connection with his excited fans when he started singing to the live piano accompaniment of "That's All," the 13th cut in his latest album.

The shouts and shrieks never seemed to end. Bublé caught a female member of the audience putting her cellular phone near the huge speaker to prove to her phone pal that she was really watching and listening to Michael Bublé live.

Seeing this, the Canadian superstar went down stage, took the phone from the woman and continued to sing through the phone speaker. "Your friend is right," he said to the woman's phone pal. "It's really me! How are you doin'?" The audience went wild.

Childhood

Hearing Bublé sing the old songs made me wonder what his childhood was like. For in this age of techno music and rap, it is amazing how a boy from cosmopolitan Vancouver mastered and fell in love with the big-band hits of the '50s. His parents must have fed him a generous dose of the old hits of Paul Anka, Perry Como, Frank Sinatra, Fred Astaire, etc.

Bublé must have read my mind because after his first song, he clowned around with a short Eminem rap, as if saying to the younger crowd that he was not a guy from the past, and that he could be as hip as the next young dude in town.

He immediately segued to a samba-flavored arrangement of our all-time favorite, "The Way You Look Tonight," recently revived in the movie "My Best Friend's Wedding." We felt, though, that nothing still beats Tony Bennett's slower and more romantic version of that classic hit.

BUBLÉ. Followed the music that he knew best.

Cool and smooth

Bublé's voice was cool and smooth. There is a sensuality about him, a youthful mystical quality that he communicates to his audience—and for romantic-hearted Pinoys, this synergy of old charm and juvenile glee definitely thrills.

"By the way, I'm still single," he joked and winked at the energized crowd, "—but not anymore." Then, he went down to kiss a young lady in front and said, "We're an item now." The lady, who was tickled pink, unashamedly kissed him back.

What is instructive about Bublé's popularity is that, instead of embracing mainstream rap and punk culture, he courageously deviated from the norm and followed the music that he knew best, and peppered these songs with his own brand of youthful vocal style.

In the Podium show, it took only five songs for Michael Bublé to wow the Pinoy audience right smack at the core of its mushy, sentimental and romantic heart.

Fun evening at the theater

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

THEATER was introduced to me when I was 10 years old by my eldest brother, Victor Jr. or "Saxo."

Heroine

At 16, I watched plays in school at the PWU Benitez Hall. I even played the heroine in "The New Yorker in Tondo." Then, Repertory Phillppines opened its doors at the FGU Insular Life Theater. I was among the first people to watch Ms Bibot Amador and Ms Baby Barredo.

Amador and Barredo will alternate as directors and stars in Bahaghari Productions' staging of the blockbuster comedy, "Late Nite Cathecism," at the Carlos P Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza on the following dates:

Oct. 3 (Save Davao Gulf Foundation), Oct. 4 (Bahaghari Productions), Oct. 5 (St. Joseph's College, Q.C.), Oct. 10 (Maryknoll College Class '78) Oct. 11 (Ticketworld), Oct. 12 (Joseph Alumnae Foundations), Oct. 17 (Rotary Club San Jose del Monte Central District 3770), Oct. 19 (Ticketworld), Oct. 23 (Mothers For Peace), Oct. 24, (Maryknoll MCHS Batch '80) and Oct. 26 (Center For Positive Futures: A St. Joseph-assisted H.S.).

The play promises to be a rollicking fun evening. Call Ticketworld at 891-5610

BARREDO (left) and Amador pose with Bahaghari producers, led by Margie Moran-Floirendo (second from right).

Westerns vivify fight between good and evil

By Behn Cervantes

CLINT Eastwood, John Wayne, Gary Cooper, Roy Rogers, James Stewart, Randolph Scott and the Cisco Kid are names that bring to mind the wild, wild West. Those olden times when cowboys and Indians, train robbers, and prairies cinematically came alive.

Sunset

Not to be forgotten are Henry Fonda, Clark Gable, Robert Taylor, Gregory Peck, Spencer Tracy, Yul Brynner and Steve McQueen, who all paid their cowboy dues by riding their horses into the sunset. They too fought Indians and the elements.

Those names also signified quiet dignity, humility and good manners, despite the scruffy men and animals that went with the wild terrain. They worked hard, fought well and labored to tame the land.

On those names were based films later to be known as Westerns, movies set to the classical story patterns of crime, chase and retribution. For added excitement, there would be fisticuffs in bars and the final shootout—a sharp exchange of shots between a solitary hero and a band of badmen.

Gunslingers

Who can forget Gary Cooper's second Academy Award performance in "High Noon" when, all by his lonesome, he faced the worst of gunslingers until the townsfolk empowered themselves to stand beside their slow-speaking sheriff and rid their area of the slime of the Western earth?

COOPER. Won his second Oscar for his performance in "High Noon."

Such a shootout can only be rivaled by the likes of the climactic scene in "Gunfight at the OK Corral" when Burt Lancaster and buddy Kirk Douglas shot it out with the worst of the lot, and came out victorious.

"The Magnificent Seven," led by Yul Brynner and young Steve MqQueen, was another memorable film of this genre. A disparate group of seven turned the odds in favor of a suffering Mexican pueblo so that good would triumph over evil.

Who can forget how diminutive Alan Ladd stoically faced the evil Jack Palance, the epitome of darkness, in the finale of "Shane"? Jack's dirty bunch of hooligans contrasted strikingly with the innocence of the young boy who idolized the solitary Shane.

Such shootouts have been done to death, but audiences all over the world still welcome the same bang-bang finish.

In fact, John Wayne finally won his Academy Award in 1969 for a western yarn, "True Grit." He was one of the greatest products of the genre.

Dramatic situation

The dramatic situation remains basically the same. Only the faces of the gun-toting protagonist and the evil antagonists change.

The chips are never in the hero's favor. It is only his unflinching courage that gives us hope. However, some trauma has turned him into a peacenik or a most reluctant fighter.

But, make no mistake, this frontiersman can take only so much. He will allow himself to be pushed to the wall, but beware when those tormenting forces abuse a woman, or threaten the lives of children or simple folk. The hero will quickly unzip his holster—and fire away!

Reluctant hero

Yes, the reluctant hero is slow to anger, but when wrong is committed against the innocent, justified action is taken swiftly by this quiet man, with hardly any thought about personal danger and death.

That solitary lone ranger, the stranger who unexpectedly comes to do good today but is gone tomorrow when he rides into the sunset, is what makes the western hero timeless.

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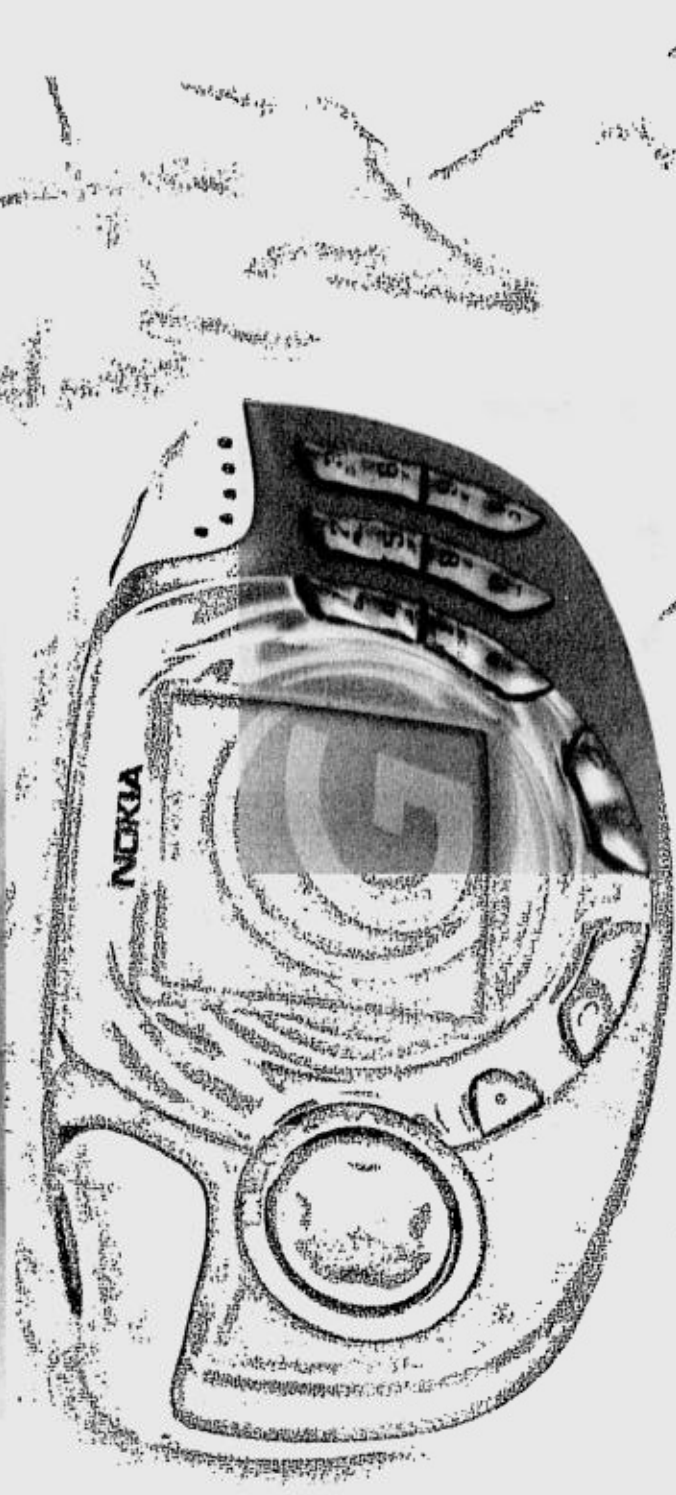

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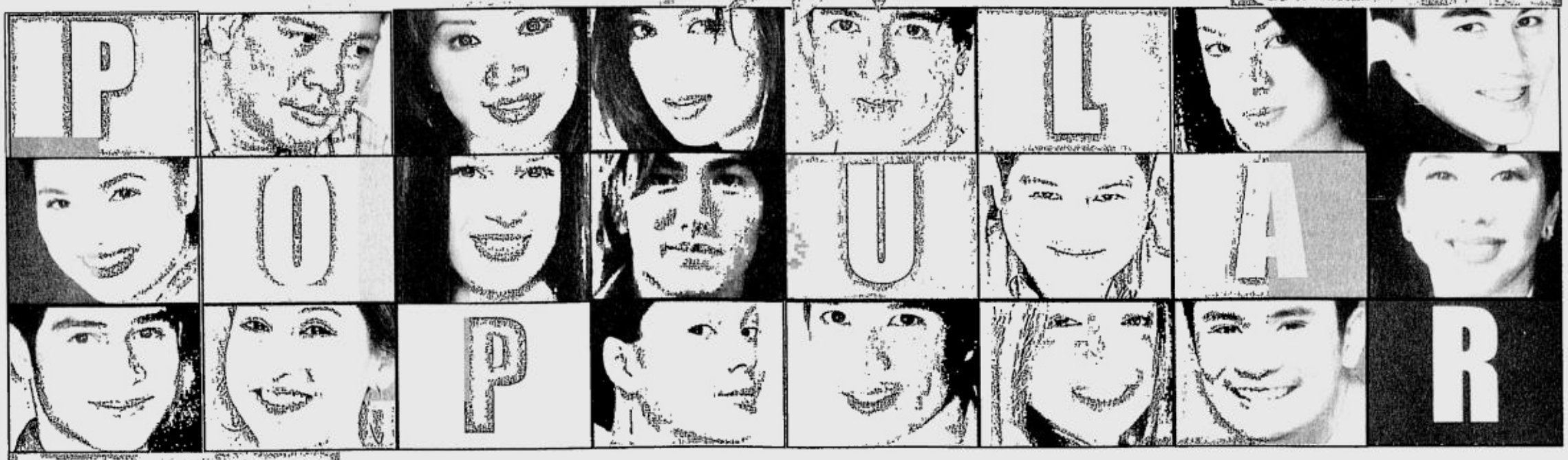

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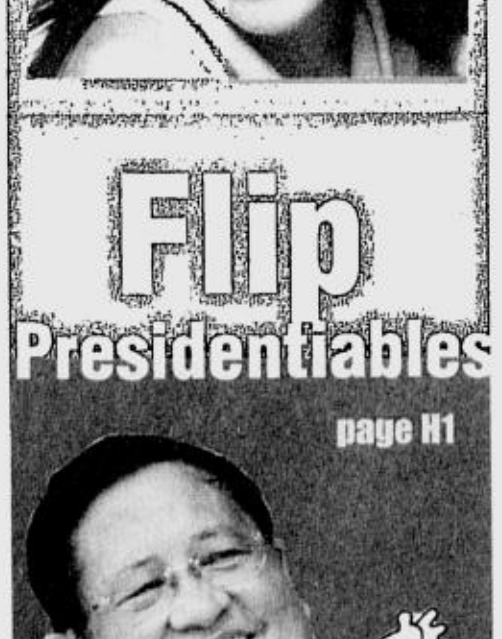

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Popular friction

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OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

ANTHONY Hopkins has a recurring nightmare.

He is back in high school, standing outside a group of classmates who sneer and humiliate him to show that he doesn't belong. It is so vivid that when he wakes up, it takes him a moment to realize that it was just a bad dream. This movie icon could send shivers up your spine with a single word: "Dinner." Who would have guessed he was an outcast in his younger days? He once admitted to Playboy magazine that because he was dyslexic and didn't play rugby like the other boys, he was tormented by school mates.

Anthony Hopkins is not the only celebrity in a Hollywood cast of outcasts. Sarah Michelle Gellar was a geeky outsider who also admits being tortured in high school. Sharon Stone was shunned because she tutored Algebra. And then there are those known for less-than-pleasant nicknames courtesy of the bullies in that hellish playground. Nicole Kidman was "Storky" because she towered over all her classmates, Cameron Diaz was "Skeletor," Whoopi Goldberg was "Whoopi Cushion" because of her flatulence, and Robert De Niro was "Bobby Milk" because of his pale complexion. Keanu Reeves was once called "The Wall" because of his perennial blank stare, but I'm willing to bet that the production assistants at "Matrix Reloaded" still call him that.

Every time I come across these random bits of celebrity torture files, I can't help but feel a strange sense of delight. Not because I'm a closet sadist who relishes the thought of famous people once being at the mercy of other mortals. It's quite the opposite. It brings a smile to my face to know that the divine engine of good karma is well-oiled. These celebs swam through all the bull of the bullies and delivered the biggest blow of revenge: success. I theorize that those early days of being high school pariahs would always serve as a humbling experience that keeps their feet on the ground even as their stars are immortalized on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Popular vs Unpopular

Those thoughts incite memories of my own days back in high school, days which I'd honestly never, ever wish to live through again. That's because my high school served as my first encounter with psychological torment, and gave me a firsthand glimpse of the bizarre caste system that exists in the world.

My high school shared so many similarities with all those teen flicks that portrayed the classic struggle between Popular vs Unpopular. You know, the ones that always end up with a prom scene, like "Jawbreaker," "She's All That" and "Never Been Kissed."

There was the archetypal "in" crowd that was composed of pretty girls who all dressed alike (down to Marks & Spencer socks), peppy cheerleaders, and good-looking jocks. Dwelling in the lower rungs of the high school social ladder were The Nerds, shy, geeky kids who made the school library their permanent address, and who wouldn't get any fashion sense even if it was defined in the thick dictionaries they perused. Of course, occupying the middle-class stations were the generally-liked-but-not-revered Rockers, Class Clowns, and the immensely entertaining Gay Guys.

As to exactly where I fit in back then, well, to this day I still don't know. Maybe somewhere in the cracks between stereotypes, along with other indefinable peers. Because we couldn't be tagged, we pretty much didn't fit anywhere. Perhaps the closest category would be Mis-Fits, or even Invisibles.

I guess I just didn't possess the ultra-spectacular attributes that garnered marks on the Popularity or Unpopularity report card. I liked to read a helluva lot, but I didn't exactly jam well with the goody-two-shoes Nerds who always gave me incredulous looks each time I said, "Shit," as if I uttered a secret shibboleth that unlocked the gates of hell.

Also, I liked sports, but didn't get along famously with jockstraps and pompoms, because in truth, outside the covered courts, their insights were about as long-lasting as the chewing gum I gnawed in Math class. Plus, I wasn't exactly well-versed with the latest campus *tsismis* and neither was I born with a mean streak that would have helped me dish out catty remarks about the less attractive people in class. I was just a scrawny kid who actually liked English and History class, watched TV a lot, and had a strange talent for forging signatures. Oh, I also wrote for the school paper, which wasn't exactly something that would get you on the class A-list. Yet because of this admittedly ho-hum, indefinable role, I believe I developed early as a good observer.

Indie Favorites

I observed the habits of these people who surrounded me each day and scribbled down my thoughts on that fabulous page-turning treatise called my diary. There, I had my own definition of "popular." The school's "in crowd" was popular in the same way that big-time Hollywood movies are, having big budgets, glitzy imagery and formulaic, crowd-pleasing scripts. In my head, I had my own list of popular kids, those who were popular to me. They were "in" like indie flicks; those brilliant, mind-blowing alternative films that I have paid Amazon.com good money to own.

I admired these kids for their talent, creativity, and for being true individualists who pursued their passions even if they were outside the mainstream activities like basketball and cheerleading.

There was Bryan, this amazing artist who never took down notes in class because he was too busy sketching faces in his notebook. There was Tyrel, this super Math whiz who could recite up to the hundredth digit of Pi. Mark was this quiet kid who could play the drums like Alex Van Halen. Cesca was a tennis sensation who topped exams in spite of her constant absences. There was Dona, this super-smart hippie chick who wrote peace signs all over the place and graduated at the top of her class. Maddy was a funky little fashionista who got away with the craziest ensembles during civilian clothes day.

Some of these indie faves were also victims of cruel name-calling. Dona was called "*bruha*" and "KSP," and was once ganged up on by a score of popular girls reminiscent of "Heathers." Maddy was labeled "*kikay*" and "*maarte*" for wearing makeup and was rejected by her friends because she was "too weird." No matter, to me, they were all stars.

Reunion

It's been exactly a decade since I escaped, I mean graduated from, high school. I was informed that a class reunion is up. Though I'm not exactly counting the days, I am curious to see how my classmates have spent the past 10 years. I'm quite convinced that the years have mellowed the bullies, who are probably married now and paying for their past sins through exorbitant credit card bills.

I do know however that some of my indie faves have done pretty well for themselves. Dona Tumacder is currently wowing crowds as a performance artist, Maddy Madrid became the fashion and beauty editor of Preview and Seventeen magazines before moving to New York, and Mark Escueta plays drums for this well-known little outfit called River Maya. As for the rest of my indie faves, I haven't seen or heard from them in years, though I have a sneaky feeling that they're doing fine. Someday, I'd like to get in touch with them, over a cup of coffee maybe, and catch up on life.

Email the author at: inca_orange@yahoo.com

Unpopular mechanics

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

Hollywood is finally getting comfy with the death of the teen cliché. Underdogs are now the new heroes

HIGH school Darwinism went into warp-drive in the mid-'80s and again in the late '90s, when a blast of corporate hype breathed life into an overlooked genre: the teen movie.

As depicted in films from "Pretty in Pink" to "Drive Me Crazy," it seemed that adolescence was merely about dating disasters, cheesy slow dances, and impossibly clear skin. In short, each one was, *like*, one long Noxzema commercial. Anyone who's ever attended a real-deal high school, however, knows the desire for smaller pores is a mere runner-up to the need to be accepted. Since high school is one massive peer pressure cooker, the struggle to be understood inevitably turns ugly and becomes one dogged crusade for popularity. And boy, with hormones flying around like hijacked airplanes, it can get supernasty.

Bracketed by ironic quotes, traditional notions of popularity involve labels, whether it's "jock," "nerd," or Gucci. The obsession with names, cliques and classifications is an evil way to even the playing field but, along with James Van Der Beek's expressive forehead, this has taken a nosedive in these free-for-all times. Hollywood is finally getting comfy with the death of the teen cliché. Films like "Welcome to the Dollhouse" satirized the old equations and introduced post-post-"90210" viewers to popularity's black sheep sibling, unpopularity.

Counter-culture coming-of-age movies like "Dazed and Confused" and "Igby Goes Down" are particularly striking because of their brazenly low-slung look at turbulent teenage life. The twist of these movies is, they're all set in high school. The double twist? They're really not teen movies, at least not in the "Whatever It Takes" sense.

I don't believe in instant fame; I think this U-turn was more evolutionary than revolutionary. Underdogs became the new heroes because everyone grew tired of the all-too-sunny portrayals of youth, and wanted something grittier and darker. Now that a reversed social order is in full effect, we have to scrape together a new definition of popularity.

Like any pop culture vulture, I minted most of my values at the movies. I believe my brain has more processing power than most 20th-century national bureaucracies because of the better ones I've bought on DVD. High school will always be a popularity wasteland, but as these films show, you can also be somebody by coming out the other side.

BE A TOXIC GENIUS

"Heathers"

Released in 1989, "Heathers" is the benchmark for all dark comedies. Winona Ryder stars as Veronica Sawyer, the only one smart enough to realize that being part of the most popular clique in school, the Heathers, can also make one feel like a big loser. This movie spews quotes so fast you'll get whiplash. My favorite: "Fuck me gently with a chainsaw. Do I look like Mother Teresa?" Ouch.

HAIL THE ANTI-PROM KING

"Donnie Darko"

Jake Gyllenhaal plays a beautiful weirdo whose visions of the future collide with his present life. Set in 1988, "Donnie Darko" is unclassifiable, since it plays with the idea of time travel like a sci-fi flick but tosses in comedy, tragedy, and an astounding Tears for Fears soundtrack.

MESS UP THE STATUS QUO

"Pump Up The Volume"

DJ Hard Harry, played by neo-Jack Nicholson Christian Slater, starts a call-to-arms at his local high school through his pirate radio station. Co-starring Samantha Mathis, "Pump Up The Volume" shows that by being anonymous, you become larger than life. After all, the best way to bring about change is when people don't know you're doing it.

DISENGAGE FROM NORMAL COOL

"Ghost World"

Enid (Thora Birch) and Rebecca (Scarlett Johansson) play high school graduates who seek refuge from real life by dispatching razor-sharp comments to anyone they come across. Each deadpan line comes from keen observation instead of typical teen boredom. Their friendship gunks up, however, when one of them becomes dumbstruck with an unlikely kind of guy. "Ghost World" exudes a raw kind of cool, one that is personal, imperfect and thoroughly human.

BE MERCILESSLY CUNNING

"O"

A retelling of Shakespeare's "Othello," "O" takes place in a cushy boarding school where skyrocketing ambition yields a body count. Josh Hartnett's diabolical Hugo makes Sebastian, Ryan Philippe's character in "Cruel Intentions," look like a total pussy. The movie, unfortunately yanked out of theaters because of its controversial chain of events, also features Mekhi Phifer as Odin and Julia Stiles as Desi. The ending will definitely blow you away.

ACCEPT DEFEAT SOMETIMES

"Election"

Tracy Flick (Reese Witherspoon) is a Type A overachiever who decides to run for student body president. Things get hairy when a well-liked professor (Matthew Broderick) jacks up her plans for world domination. Know-it-alls are always annoying but there's something about Tracy Flick that makes you *not* want to drag a rake across her face. If you've ever considered running for any position, watch "Election" first.

From Crass to Class

SWAK!

by Lex

Filipinos seem to have a recurring case of collective amnesia when it comes to their icons

IF there is one thing I am sure of, it is that we are definitely not a country of elephants.

They say the wise old elephant never forgets. On the other hand, Pinoys seem to have a recurring case of collective amnesia.

How else can someone go from beauty queen to alleged Brunei-yuki to confessed scam artist to failed philanthropist to half-naked drunk being posted online to Edsa billboard queen to foreign billionaire's wife, all in the same lifetime?

To say Ruffa Guttierez has led a colorful life would be the understatement of the millennium! Not long after her glory days as beauty queen extraordinaire she was relegated to the tabloids for being part of the Brunei-yuki scandal—where our most beautiful women were supposedly being shipped off to Brunei to satisfy the whims and fancies of the world's richest royalty.

Not content with this brush with infamy, Ruffa (along with Gabby Concepcion, Lolit Solis and Ms Mauritius Viveka Babajee) participated in the attempt to rig the 1994 Metro Manila Filmfest by awarding two acting trophies to contenders that the judges didn't choose. Soon after, she was accused of "victimizing" a group of doctors as part of her Roof-A-Child Foundation.

As for the naked pictures supposedly taken while she was drunk at a party, they are arguably the most widely forwarded e-mail message that ever originated in the Philippines.

If Ricky Reyes' giant Edsa billboards mean anything, however, Ruffa's sordid past is water under the bridge. And to seal her entry into the upper echelons of "society" she married a Turkish prince. Well, okay, he's not exactly a prince. But for the star-struck majority, his being a hunk with Robin Padilla-ish bad-boy stubble and loads of cash comes close enough.

I LOVE you Yilmaz!!!

Imeldific

Like Ruffa, another controversial celebrity who fell from grace and resurrected as queen of the society pages is Imelda Marcos. Being the only Filipina in both the Guinness Book of World Records (for her mind-boggling shoe collection) *and* the Webster's Dictionary ("Imeldific: over-the-top") she has definitely put our little country on the world map, albeit for the wrong reasons.

The Marcoses, headed by their matriarch, are back with a vengeance. Bong bong is governor, Imee is congresswoman (maybe future senator), and it looks like Imelda, along with her entourage of guards and *alalays* in tow, is still trying to expand her shoe collection. After 20 years of plunder, when will we ever learn?!

For any society to progress, the key is accountability. People have to be liable for their actions. Otherwise, how can order prevail?

Thus, while the Marcos clan remains in power; Erap remains in a hospital instead of jail; Gringo remains a senator despite the death of innocent bystanders during his past coup attempts, and Ping remains a "presidentiable" despite racking up a long list of human rights abuse, then we are doomed to stay exactly where we are—lost, dazed and utterly confused.

(For comments e-mail: swak@info.com.ph)

STAND aside—I have arrived!

Ashley's big break

By Joyce C. Abaño

THE PATH to singing superstardom is different for each celebrity but everyone will agree that it's usually a long, hard road to success. A lot of it is luck—being at the right place at the right time.

Regine Velasquez and Nora Aunor were discovered on televised singing contests and recently Sarah Geronimo has followed suit. These three industry leaders will all narrate how difficult the process was for them.

At any given time there are hundreds of applicants outside the studio waiting in line for their 15 seconds in the talent scout's spotlight, sometimes only enough time to sing two lines of the refrain. Often, if your face isn't deemed star quality, you're out before you can even get through the door.

Elvis Presley, the greatest rock star of all time, was discovered in a booth in a mall where he cut a demo tape. This was passed on to a recording studio and that was the start of something big—or more like earth- (with corresponding hip) shaking.

A new pop singing superstar was found in exactly the same way. Her name is Ashley and, like Elvis decades before her, was discovered recording a CD in the mall in a booth called Karaoke King. She entered to record an album just for fun as a gift for her grandma. Through Karaoke King's tie-up with Viva Records she was discovered and now has recently launched a hit album.

She entered Karaoke King to record a CD just for fun and exited as Viva Records' latest singing superstar

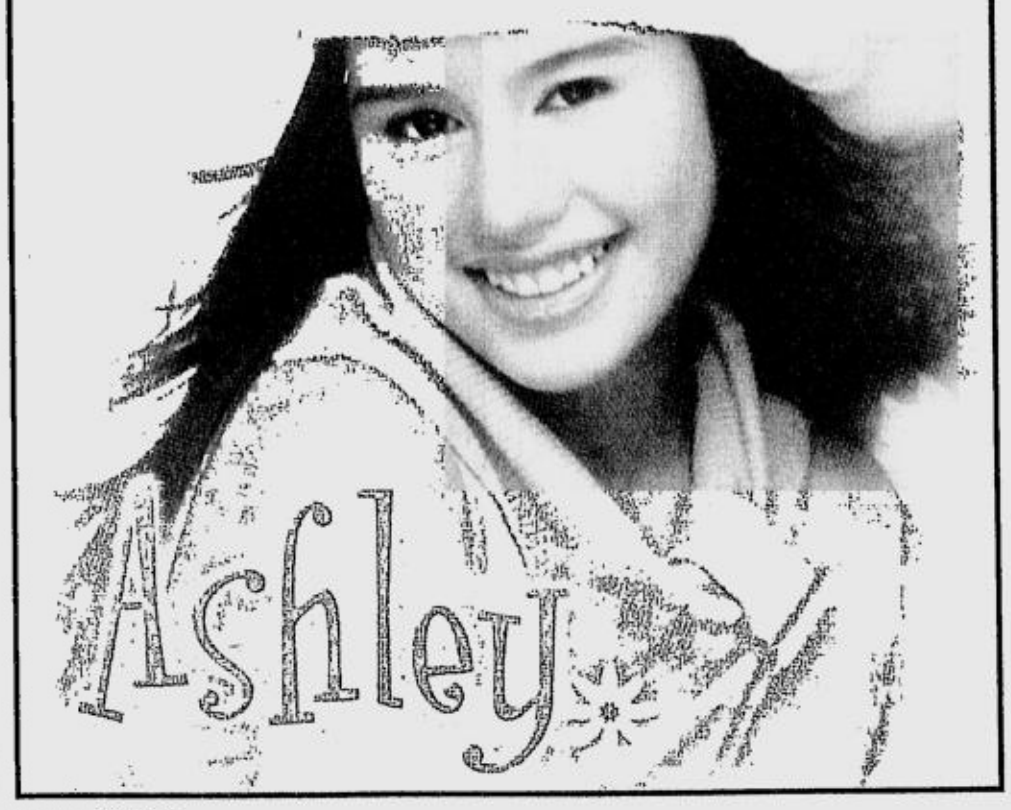
Ashley is 16 and has a voice that is vibrant and soulful way beyond her years. For a jaded individual like me, the self-titled album "Ashley" is fresh and enjoyable. A mixture of songs about young love and growing up, Ashley easily draws us into her world. From the carrier single "Tamis Ng Unang Halik," a remake of Kristina Paner's timeless '80s classic to a duet with Salbakuta and their version of "Kapag Tumibok ang Puso," Ashley's album is an album of someone on the verge of stardom.

And when one thinks of the extraordinary way in which this simple Bulakeña was discovered, it can only be a sure sign that this is her destiny. Who would have thought that a simple Sunday at the mall would end up with Ashley singing under the bright lights of show biz's center stage?

With "Tamis Ng Unang Halik" bombarding the airwaves and her music video all over the tube, it also comes as no surprise that Ashley was nominated for Best New Artist in this year's Awit Awards a mere week after her launch.

The genius of Viva's main-man, Vic del Rosario Jr., has once again been validated with the choice of Ashley to follow in the footsteps of his latest young diva Sarah Geronimo. Boss Vic has continued to show that he is never one to rest on his laurels and wait for the competition to launch rivals to his stars.

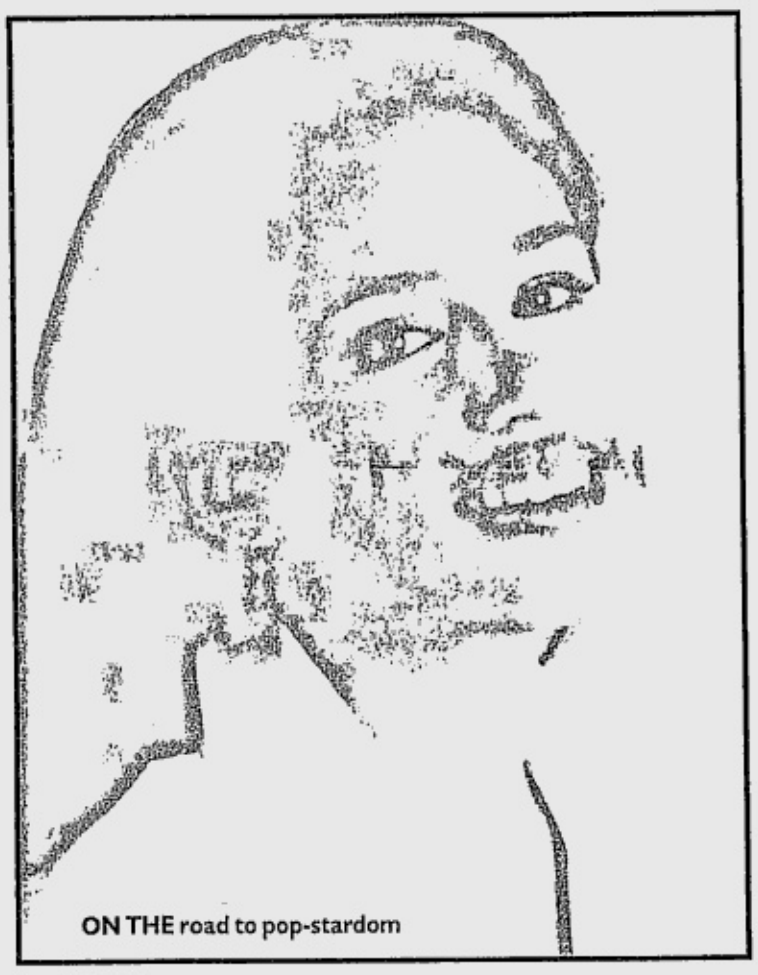
For this author, Ashley's journey is merely beginning. Her talent is phenomenal and it is matched with an innocent demeanor I expect the public to fall in love with. And if this first taste of her voice remains as crisp and powerful as it is, then we definitely have extraordinary things to expect from this lucky young girl.



THE COVER of Ashley's self-titled CD

PHOTOS BY ISA LORENZO

YOUTHFUL innocence loaded with refreshing talent



ON THE road to pop-stardom

THE BOOTH where it all began

An Event-ful Gentxt Gimmick

WINNER Vanneza Ho with Hsu Hsi Ti and Barbie Xu

GENTXTER Liz Garcia and her boyfriend Raymond Ocampo

THE WINNERS enjoyed lunch at Burgoo before the concert

FOUR GENTXTERS and their companions were given free front row VIP seats to "The Event," a concert featuring Ken and Vanness of F4 and Barbie Xiu (more popularly known as Xan Cai from the hit TV series "Meteor Garden"). They also got a chance to see Barbie and her sister Hsu Hsi Ti, who are collectively known as the singing group ASOS.

All they had to do to win was join Gentxt's "The Event" raffle.

Gentxt, Globe's privilege club for the young and hip, has always given its members access to gimmicks and other exciting activities.

More than a thousand subscribers participated in this promo. There were various ways to join—by switching to Globe's Hi-Memory SIM, downloading F4 logos and ringtones via myGlobe or joining Gentxt's SMS raffle.

The fortunate four were Lizette Garcia, Vanneza Ho, Christine Pe and Catherine Tanpoco.

"I could not believe it when Globe called to tell me I was going to meet Barbie and watch her perform! We are so lucky!" exclaimed Vanneza who brought her sister and co-F4 fanatic, Sheree.

Hours before "The Event," Gentxt group product manager Chooey Velayo and senior product manager Gretchen Montelibano treated the four winners and their friends to lunch at a Gentxt partner establishment, Burgoo in Rockwell. The Gentxters bonded over their fascination with the artists from Taiwan. Christine Pe and her 11-year-old daughter Kay and Catherine Tanpoco and her sister Caroline argued over their favorite characters, lines and moments. "I can't wait to tell Barbie how much I admire her. As Xan Cai, she is a feisty fighter, principled and independent. I think she's a good role model," said Lizette, a production designer, who brought her boyfriend Raymond along. "I am so happy he shares my love for F4. Our date is watching F4 marathons at home together—three days non-stop!"

After a filling lunch and some souvenir snapshots, the Gentxters were shuttled to the Philsports Arena in Pasig, where they were promptly ushered to their VIP seats. "Thanks to Gentxt, we didn't even have to fall in line outside. Talk about red carpet treatment!" said Christine.

The nonstop drizzle did not dampen the Gentxters' excitement. The opening numbers from South Border, Nina, Kyla, the Company and Gary Valenciano did a great job of building up the anticipation.

Moments before Barbie and Dee were scheduled to go onstage, the Gentxt contingent was called in to meet her. Along with Globe AVP for Prepaid and Gentxt, Buda Concio and four other Globe subscribers who won the myGlobe promo, Lizette, Vanneza, Catherine and Kay made their way backstage for their rendezvous with their idol. Barbie and Dee received them warmly. They were all starstruck and Vanneza, who could speak Mandarin, was able to communicate with Barbie at length. "Nee henn mae lee (You are so beautiful), I told her. She beamed at me and said "Sie sie ni! (Thank you!) And then she asked me how I understood Mandarin," narrated Vanneza. "I told her my dad was born in Taiwan and my mom Racquel, who happens to also be a big fan, was a Chinese *mestiza*."

Lizette was only able to mumble her admiration for Barbie, who thanked her for the compliment. "Barbie is much more beautiful in person, and so nice, too!" she said. Catherine couldn't wait to get her picture taken with her idol. "The best part is we have a picture to prove it. I have a souvenir shot of me and Xan Cai to show off." she said.

Watching Barbie, Dee, Ken and Vanness was another highlight of their 'Event-ful' Gentxt gimmick. Miraculously, the rain stopped as soon as Xan Cai stepped onstage.

Not quite ready to have their thrilling day end, the Gentxters decided to grab a bite to eat together before heading home. They recounted the day's happy events, exchanged phone numbers and promised to keep connected.

SUPARTZTM, THE INNOVATIVE TREATMENT FOR OSTEOARTHRITIS, NOW HERE IN THE PHILIPPINES

WHAT IS OSTEOARTHRITIS?

Osteoarthritis is the most common type of arthritis, especially among older people. It is a joint disease that mostly affects the cartilage. Healthy cartilage allows bones to glide over one another. It also absorbs energy from the shock of physical movement. In osteoarthritis, the surface layer of cartilage breaks down and wears away. This allows bones under the cartilage to rub together, causing pain, swelling, and loss of motion of the joint. Over time, the joint may lose its normal shape. Also, bone spurs-- small growths called osteophytes-- may grow on the edges of the joint. Bits of bone or cartilage can break-off and float inside the joint space. Thiscauses more pain and damage.

WHO HAS OSTEOARTHRITIS?

Osteoarthritis is one of the most frequent causes of physical disability among adults. At least 4% of the total Philippine population are 65 years old and above or an estimated 3 million*. Arthritis affects 60-90% of people over 65 and 25-30% of those who are between 45-64 years**. Both men and women have the disease. Before age 45, more men than women have osteoarthritis, whereas after age 45, it is more common in women.

HOW DOES OSTEOARTHRITIS AFFECT PEOPLE?

Osteoarthritis affects each person differently. In some people, it progresses quickly; in others, the symptoms are more serious. Scientists do not know yet what causes the disease, but they suspect a combination of factors, including being overweight, the aging process, joint injury, and stresses on the joints from certain jobs and sports activities.

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU HAVE OSTEOARTHRITIS?

Usually, osteoarthritis comes on slowly. Early in the disease, joints may ache after physical work or exercise. Osteoarthritis can occur in any joint. Most often it occurs at the knees.

The knees are the body's primary weight-bearing joints. For this reason, they are among the joints most commonly affected by osteoarthritis. They may be stiff, swollen, and painful, making it hard to walk, climb, and get in and out of chairs. If not treated, osteoarthritis in the knees can lead to disability.

The Warning Signs of Osteoarthritis are: (1) steady or intermittent pain in a joint; (2) stiffness in a joint after getting out of bed or sitting for a long time; (3) swelling or tenderness in one or more joints; and (4) a crunching feeling or the sound of bone rubbing on bone.

WHAT IS THE LATEST INNOVATION IN THE TREATMENT OF OSTEOARTHRITIS?

Hyaluronic Acid Joint Fluid Therapy is the latest innovation in the treatment of osteoarthritis. Injecting hyaluronic acid into the knee joint provides long-term pain relief for people with osteoarthritis. Hyaluronic acid is a natural component of cartilage and joint fluid. It lubricates and absorbs shock in the joint. The Bureau of Food and Drug (BFAD) approved this therapy for patients with osteoarthritis of the knee.

WHAT IS SUPARTZ TM?

Supartz TM (Sodium hyaluronate), is used for the treatment of mild to moderate pain caused by osteoarthritis of the knee in patients who have failed to get adequate relief from exercise, physical therapy, or simple analgesics.

Supartz TM is a solution consisting of highly purified sodium hyaluronate (hyaluronan). Hyaluronan is a natural substance found in the body and is a common constituent of connective tissues and the thick, viscous fluid (synoval fluid) found in joints. In osteoarthritis, the ability of the synoval fluid to protect and lubricate your joint is reduced. Supartz TM replaces this fluid that is depleted in osteoarthrits. It thereby acts like a lubricant and shock absorber in the synovim of an osteoarthritic joint. It also has an anti-inflammatory action without the side effects of costisones as well as chondroprotective property wherein it can protect existing cartilage and replace damaged cells with new cartilage.

HOW IS SUPARTZ TM ADMINISTERED?

Supartz TM is administered by an injection once a week into the knee for a total of five injections. The doctor may recommend a local anesthetic prior to injection to minimize the possible discomfort associated with injection.

WHAT SHOULD YOU EXPECT FOLLOWING YOUR SERIES OF INJECTION?

The goal of Supartz TM is relief from pain. One may experience some pain relief before one receive the full series of five injections. However, studies suggest that most patients experiencing relief do so after the full series of five injections. The actual amount and duration of pain relief varies from patient to patient.

Supartz TM provides long-term pain relief for as long as a few years for about 80% of the patients with osteoarthritis of the knee.

WHAT ARE THE OTHER AVAILABLE CONCURRENT TREATMENTS FOR OSTEOARTHRITIS?

Exercise: Research shows that exercise is one of the best treatments for osteoarthritis. Exercise can improve mood and outlook, decrease pain, increase flexibility, improve the heart and blood flow, maintain weight, and promote general physical fitness. Exercise is also inexpensive and, if done correctly, has few negative side effects.

Weight control: Osteoarthritis patients who are overweight or obese need to lose weight. Weight loss can reduce stress on weight-bearing joints and limit further injury. A dietitian can help patients develop healthy eating habits. A healthy diet and regular exercise help reduce weight.

Rest and joint care: Treatment plans include regularly scheduled rest. Patients must learn to recognize the body's signals, and know when to stop or slow down, which prevents pain caused by overexertion. Some patients find that relaxation techniques, stress reduction, and biofeedback help. Some use canes and splints to protect joints and take pressure off them. Splints or braces provide extra support for weakened joints. They also keep the joint in proper position during sleep or activity. Splints should be used only for limited periods because joints and muscles need to be exercised to prevent stiffness and weakness. A doctor can help the patient get a properly fitting splint.

Non-drug pain relief: People with ostecarthritis may find non-drug ways to relieve pain. Warm towels, hot packs, or a warm bath or shower to apply moist heat to the joint can relieve pain and stiffness. In some cases, cold packs can relieve pain or numb the sore area. Water therapy in a heated pool or whirlpool also may relieve pain and stiffness. For osteoarthritis in the knee, patients may wear insoles or cushioned shoes to redistribute weight and reduce joint stress. Check with a doctor to find out if heat or cold is the best treatment.

Medicines: Doctors prescribe medicines to eliminate or reduce pain and to improve functioning. Doctors consider a number of factors when choosing medicines for their patients with osteoarthritis. Two important factors are the intensity of the pain and the potential side effects of the medicine. Patients must use medicines carefully and tell their doctors about any changes that occur. It is important for people to learn about the medicines they take as well as its accompanying side effects profile.

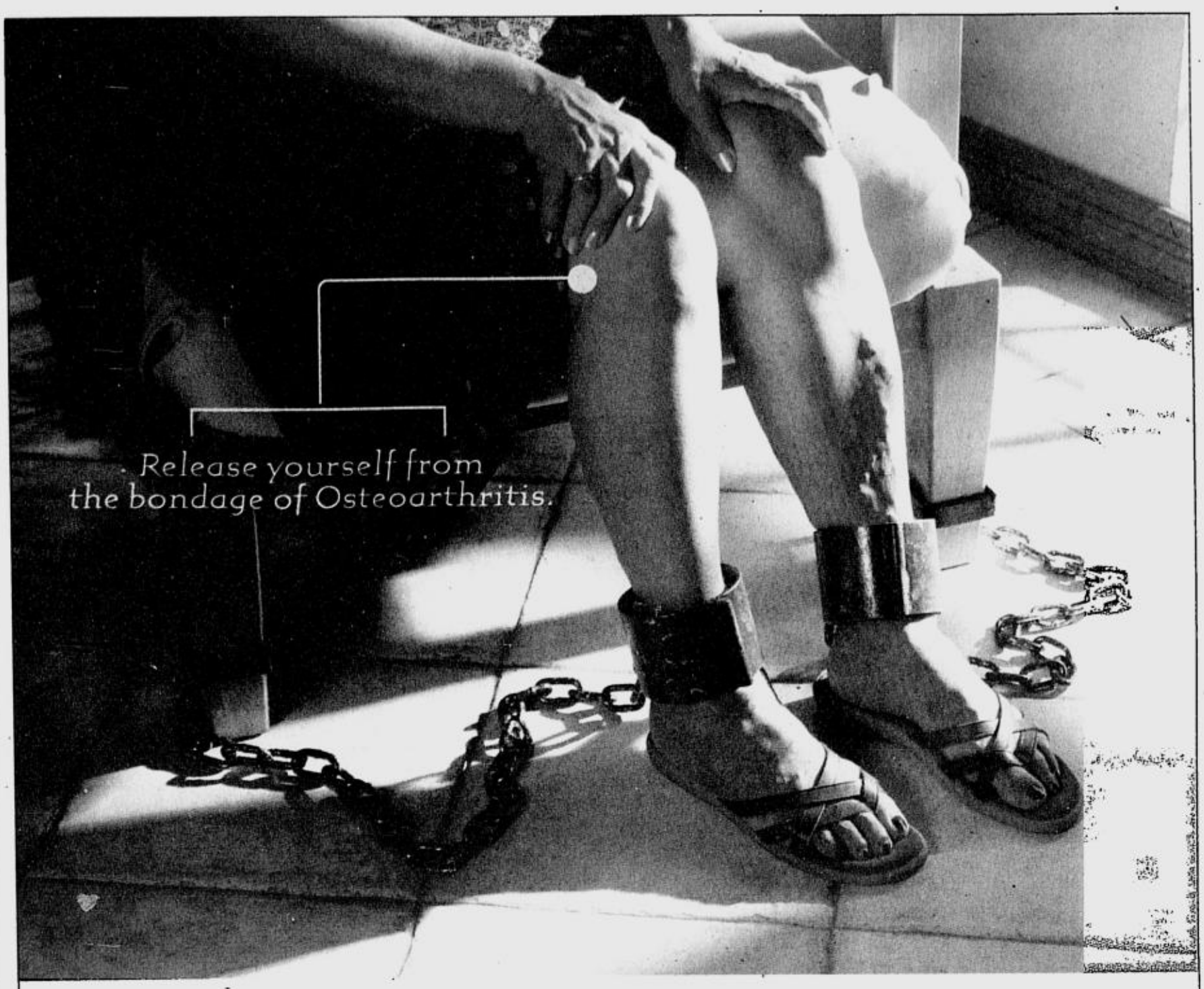
Surgery: For many people, surgery helps relieve the pain and disability of osteoarthritis. Surgery may be performed to: (1) remove loose pieces of bone and cartilage from the joint if they are causing mechanical symptoms of buckling or locking; (2) resurface bones; (3) reposition bones; and (4) replace joints.

The decision to use surgery depends on several things. Both the surgeon and the patient consider the patient's level of disability, the intensity of pain, the interference with the patient's lifestyle, the patient's age and occupation. Currently, more than 80 percent of osteoarthritis surgery cases involve replacing the hip or knee joint.

If you think you are suffering from osteoarthritis, it is best that you consult your doctor immediately. Your doctor's diagnosis will be the basis for the correct and proper treatment of your condition.

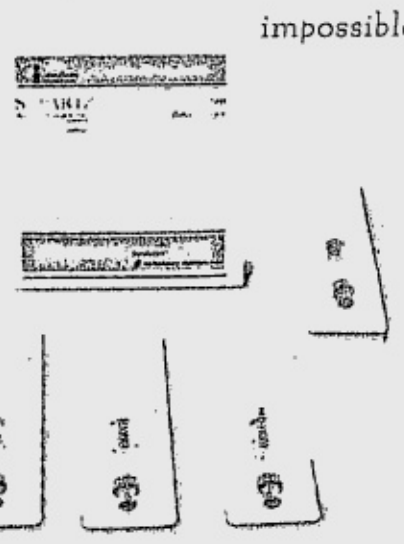
*National Statistics Office
**PDI (June 24, 2002 issue)

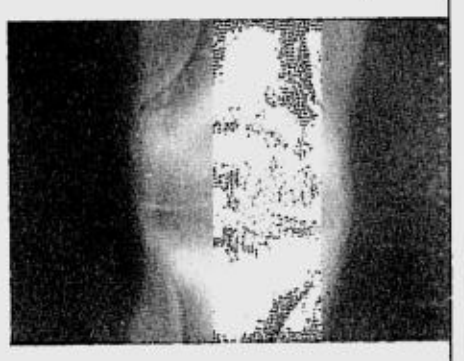
ADVT



If you feel trapped in a chair because of pain in the joints, you could be suffering from Osteoarthritis - the "wear and tear" of the joints. It will affect everyone usually starting age 45.

Osteoarthritis is caused by the drying up of the joint's fluid leading to the breakdown of the cushion between the joints. With every move, the friction brings pain which eventually becomes impossible to bear.





Most people resort to pain relievers for temporary relief. A few turn to surgery. Now there's an alternative.

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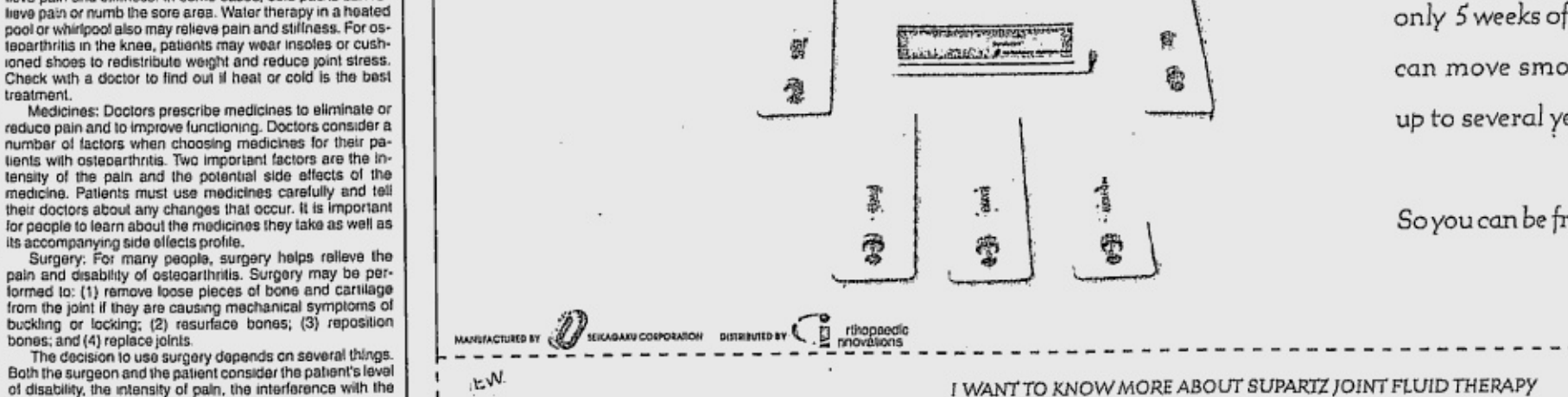

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY Super

FLIP: A Parting Shot

WE WERE going to change the world. Or at least Philippine magazine publishing.

We were going to swim against the tide, push that boulder up the mountain, and defy conventional wisdom.

We were going to produce a magazine that was intelligent and ironic, that took on serious subjects without taking itself too seriously, that interpreted the world through Pinoy humor.

We called it Flip: The Official Guide to World Domination.

And we found people who believed.

For eight issues we showed the skeptics that it could be done. Now we have to admit that the skeptics were right: Market conditions do not permit us to continue, the magazine is too small to make it on its own, blah blah blah.

Flip has ended, but we like to think of ourselves as a Velvet Underground of magazines. It is said that only 10 people ever bought a Velvet Underground album, but each of them went on to form a band. Considerably more people read a copy of Flip. Imagine if each of them were to conquer the world in their own way. Our title may yet be prophetic.

Our last issue never made it to the press, but we couldn't just disappear without a whimper. Here is our goodbye to you: the Flip profiles of the men and woman who may be the next President of the Republic. Start flipping.

Jessica Zafra

Roby Alampay

Francine Medina

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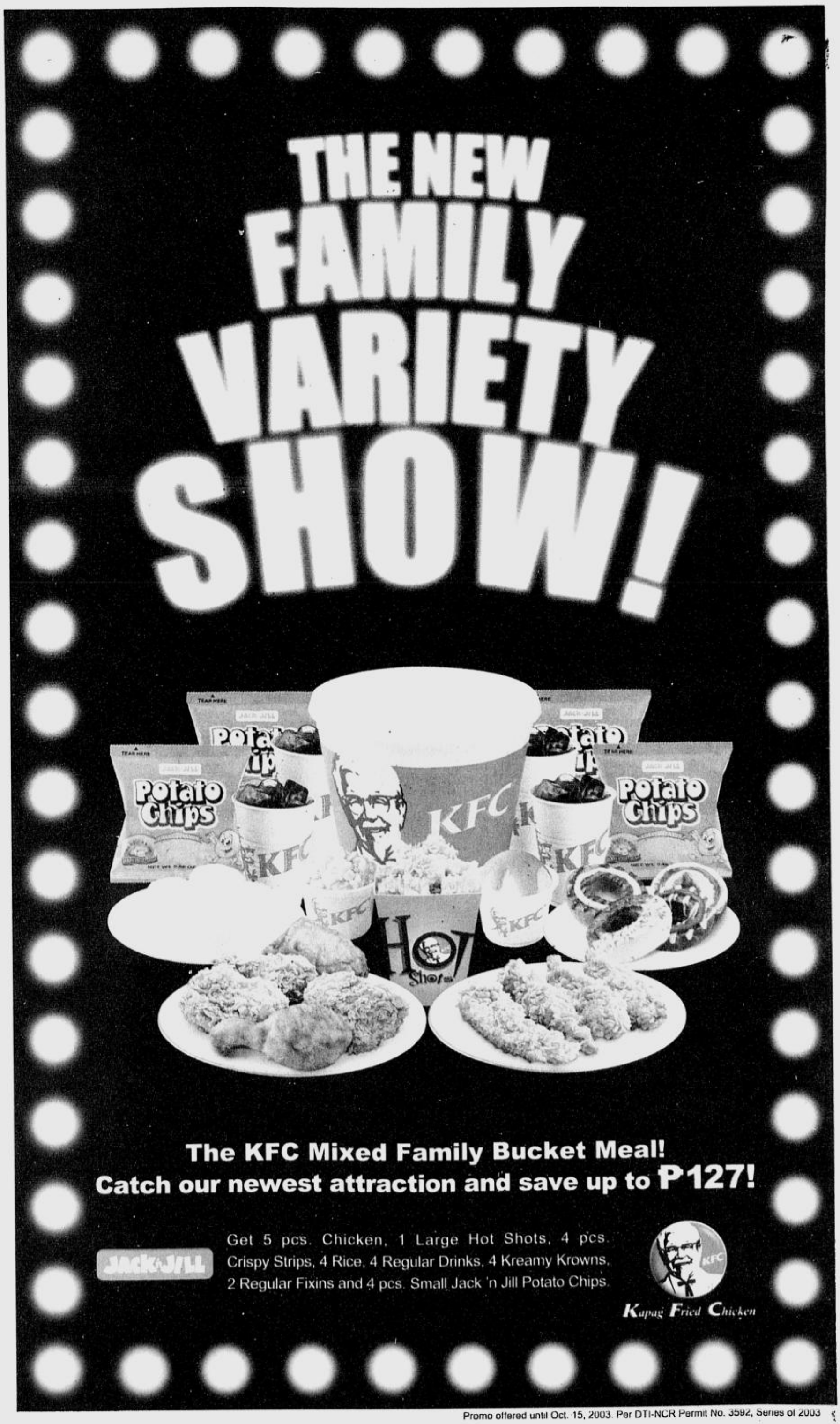

Promo offered until Oct. 15, 2003. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3592, Series of 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SATURDAY Inquirer

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2003

Color-coding the President

ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

By Frank Cimatu

ON DEC. 29, 2002, the Marcos bust in Tuba, Benguet was blasted and the top of the Apo's head flew as far as a kilometer away. On the morning of Dec. 30, Rizal Day, my head felt like the Marcos bust after all the presidential and ex-presidential media coverage, not to mention the Christmas parties.

PPGMA (President of the Philippines Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, same way Dubya is referred to as POTUS or President of the United States) was slated to deliver her annual Rizal Day Speech here in Baguio. I was assigned to cover the speech.

No one expected anything out of the ordinary, but I recalled that PPGMA had invoked Rizal in her inaugural speech, so I upped the volume on my television set. Just in case.

The speech, later to be referred to as *the* Rizal Day Speech, was unlike her previous speeches because she mentioned political divisiveness and the potential bloodiness of the 2004 elections. Still, there was no indication of what was to follow. When she said, "In view of these factors, I have decided ...," I assumed her next words would be ... "to follow Jesus."

What she said instead was ... "not to run for President during the election of 2004. If I were to run, it will require a major political effort on my part. But since I'm among ..."

In my confusion I pushed the channel button instead of the volume and landed in the Cartoon Network. Ten minutes later I was in Baguio's Rizal Park, feeling stupid and interviewing the still-incredulous politicians.

That night, PPGMA invited local mediamen to the courtyard of Mansion House, where we drank red wine and eyed Luli as she skewered jumbo hotdogs.

At 10:30 p.m., PPGMA decided to make a live appearance on the Channel 7 news, and everyone decided to be the live audience. Problem was, Channel 7 in Manila had a hard time hooking up. PPGMA kept looking at her watch, and finally said, "*Ano ba*? It's way past my bedtime." Emboldened by the wine, I laughed out loud.

Everyone else froze.

Gift of overlooking

In his Granta piece about the 1986 Snap Revolution, the poet James Fenton noted some Filipinos' way of seeing beyond the shadows: where most people would see a mulcting policeman, for example, a Filipino toughened by years under the Marcos dictatorship would see Dead Presidents changing hands between the policeman and a jeepney driver.

Marcos babies like us also have that gift, honed by watching the seemingly innocuous cartoons on TV during those dark times. Don't say watching "The Yogi Bear Show," "Spider Man," "Challenge of the Superfriends," "Flintstones," "Scooby's All-Star Laff-A-Lympics," and "Wacky Races" didn't have an effect on us. We still stay up late to watch these classics on Cartoon Network and catch up on our lost childhood.

We Marcos babies are among those who see beyond the shadows. Call it *rusticus aspectus*, or the gift of morphing our political leaders with cartoon characters.

Case in point, Voltes V. Second point: Our present president. PPGMA is the PPG (Powerpuff Girl) with an M.A. (in Economics).

You may unfreeze now.

She is (all together now): "Blossoms, she is commander and leader; Bubbles, she is joy and laughter; Buttercup, she's the toughest fighter; Powerpuffs save the day!"

President Macapagal said her decision not to run was not spontaneous, but something she had talked over for months with her family. Might we ask: was the unexpectedly dismal performance of "Powerpuff Girls—The Movie" part of the deciding factor?

Buttercup speaking

Earlier, on Good Friday 2002, we had also been called to the Mansion House courtyard because PPGMA was presenting the American Jeffrey Schilling, who had been held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf for eight months.

The President said: "Seek and destroy the remnants of the Abu Sayyaf. *Sa mga bandidong natitira, sumurender na kayo. Pupulbusin ko kayo!* (To the bandits still at large: surrender now. I will pulverize you!" In my notebook, I sketched Bubbles decimating the bandits. But that was Buttercup speaking.

Right after PPGMA and her cabinet posed for a magazine as the "Men In Black," Senator Tessie Aquino-Oreta said the President should also pose with DSWD Secretary Dinky Soliman and Gloria Tan-Climaco as the Powerpuff Girls. Soliman said she wanted to be Buttercup.

Oreta obviously missed something: PPGMA does not need to pose with others; she can be all the Three Faces of PPG, the Trinity of the Powerpuff. You only know which one she is at any given time by the color of her dress.

The Powerpuff Girls was at one point the biggest-selling show on the Cartoon Network, not only because of the clever storylines, but also because of the characters' fashion sense and color coordination. People in the know exploit this secret in dealing with GMA. Ever wonder how a former Justice Secretary was admitted into the inner circle? He gave PPGMA a pink orchid which he christened "Malvarosa Princesa Gloria." Needless to say, this appealed to the Blossom in her.

Orange lady

On Feb. 26, 2003, during the meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement in Kuala Lumpur, GMA stood out by wearing an orange outfit by Fil-Japanese designer Ito Curata.

The Office of the Press Secretary noted: "People in the hall, used to seeing the men in dark suits and the women in formal light-shaded business attire, could not but notice and express awe over the lady wearing the orange suit."

In her interview with Time Magazine in June 2001, round the time of Edsa II and the Basilan hostages, PPGMA wore an iridescent blue silk gown. This signified that she was being Bubbles, the sensitive PPG who usually acts as mediator between the egotistical Blossom and the aggressive Buttercup.

Of course, there is the Gloria Labandera (soap bubbles?) image to soften her Georgetown reputation and endear her to the blue-collar sector and the blue ribbon committee.

Ms Macapagal does not like wearing green, but loves posing and surrounding herself with military men in their olive gear and the US Green Beret.

During the Fourth World Meeting of Families in Manila last January, PPGMA said that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Son became Man in the womb of the Virgin Mary, wife of St. Joseph.

"Thus you gave us the model of a God-loving and humane family. And now you bind a Christian woman and man in marriage to be the sign and channel of your love for the world, and of the love of Christ for his Church," she said.

The OPS later noted: "Those who attended almost covered the expansive football field and garden, making the crowd a sea of white, red, green, pink, orange and yellow, the colors of the several parties from different cities and municipalities." Also the colors of the Powerpuff posse.

Man in the womb

Observers, especially women's groups, are stupefied as to why the President, a former economics teacher at Ateneo, does not aggressively address the population problem when she is well aware that high population growth invariably negates whatever modest economic growth we achieve. Instead she toes the line of the Catholic Church, which is effectively the aforementioned man-in-the-womb-of-the-virgin method, a.k.a. natural birth control techniques like withdrawal, putting the temperature before the thingy, and the rhythm method.

Come to think of it, how were the Powerpuff Girls created? By mixing sugar, spice, everything nice and Chemical X. Can anything ever be more virgin-birth than that?

Inhabitants of the Powerpuffs' home of Townsville resemble characters in the Philippine political landscape. Captain Righteous, original defender and hero of Townsville who sued to fight the Minister of Pain, is now retired and living in a trailer.

There are the Broccoloids who sound like the defenders of genetically-modified organisms. Then there is the disco-loving Boogieman and his Midnight Cabinet, who put Townsville in the dark just so he can party. Al Lusion, the magician who came back from the dead, sounds like our good man from Batac.

Major Glory is PPGMA's classmate, Bill Clinton. He, our favorite villain, has eyebrows that remind us of a favorite ex-senator. Then there's Mojo Jojo, the monkey with a brain so big he needs a turban to accommodate it. Jojo Acuin?

Cuteness is the world that the Powerpuff Girls inhabit, and President Macapagal has incorporated that into her image-building. In the Autumn 2001 issue of Cabinet magazine, Frances Richard wrote "15 Theses on Cute."

The fourth thesis goes: "Cute arises by manipulating the guarantee of non-manipulation. Professing its own demure and complete powerlessness, it gains power over and directs all interactions with it: parents wait upon the infant, not the other way around."

And the eleventh: "Morphologically—that is, aesthetically—cute relies on big eyes, round heads, fat bellies. It is visibly dependent, apparently engineered by natural selection to stimulate a nurturing response. If this is true in evolutionary terms, it follows that the surplus cuteness manufactured by culture might denote the culture's attempt to trick itself into kindness. One respondent defined it thus: "Cute makes you do things you wouldn't do otherwise."

Ah yes, things like rooting for PPGMA. She is far more manipulative than we think.

Ping's Quest

His supporters insist he is an officer and a gentleman. The officer naturally has enemies; the gentleman is an easy target of lies

By Roby Alampay

ABOUT a year ago, Sen. Panfilo Lacson paid a visit to Sen. Juan Flavier's office. He came alone and went straight to the point. He was considering running for President in 2004, Lacson said. Would the former secretary of health be willing to run with the former top cop?

"Why me?" Flavier asked.

"For a very selfish reason," Lacson said. "Run with me and all the innuendoes (*lahat ng paninira)* about me will be effectively countered."

"*Burado*" was how the former cop put it to the popular doctor. This get-together arguably represented the full breadth of how popular or notorious Philippine public officials can get, and Lacson, more than knowing it, fully acknowledged the public perception he wanted "erased."

Oh, he was sincerely profuse in his praise for Flavier. Even when the Senate president pro tempore months later was floated as a possible rival in the presidential derby, Lacson called the former barrio doctor his "idol," the only member of the Senate he could unequivocally respect.

Lacson figures—and confesses to figuring—that anybody who idolizes the good doctor can't be all bad, and the public will likely see that anybody with whom Flavier chooses to run must have some good in him.

In other words, the diminutive senator could do everything that an endorsement from a kidnap victim like Robina Gokongwei could only hope to achieve. The former chief of the National Police would appreciate being afforded even the benefit of the doubt.

Nobody needs reminding what role doubt can play in Lacson's future. Good or bad—and there really are those who see something good in the suggestion—Ping Lacson is said to be well-acquainted with criminal forces and criminal ways, and not just because he's been a cop for three decades. He's being tried for the extrajudicial extermination of 13 members of a drug and robbery syndicate, the more sinister implication being that he had ruthlessly silenced partners in crime. A milder interpretation of the rub-out charge is that Lacson's handling of the Kuratong Baleleng shootout/massacre was merely symptomatic of a disturbing and chilling career in a dark, two-faced institution.

At best, Lacson is portrayed by detractors (and even admirers) as Machiavellian, a law enforcer who—fully aware of the desperate state of this society—takes the law into his own hands. At worst, he is said to be Sauron himself. Drugs, *jueteng*, kidnapping, robberies. There are many rings held by many kings. Ping Lacson, it is whispered in many corners of the land, sees government as The One Ring to rule them all.

His supporters insist he is merely an officer and a gentleman. The officer naturally has enemies. The gentleman is an easy target of lies.

Bad PR

The key to knowing the truth, Lacson says in his defense, starts with this simple fact: His PR sucks. He means his skills, not his handlers, which, it must be said in fairness to a team marqueed by Lito Banayo and backed by the Zamora brothers, is as formidable as anything former President Erap Estrada had and still has in his corner.

It is Lacson's personal touch with the press that needs work, and he says this with as much humility and confusion as pride. Pride because he sees it as a mark of authenticity that a person is neither glib nor too comfortable with reporters. Humility and confusion because he also knows that, as Christian as it is, Filipinos can't fully trust anybody who can keep his silence for too long. When too many people are calling you a killer, a kidnapper, a money launderer, and suggesting that you are gay to boot, how could an innocent man keep from firing back?

But there it is. Senator Lacson says he simply doesn't know how to fire back without dignifying low blows or going against his own character.

Thus, when Malou Mangahas asked him in "Debate" why, *aber*, the public only sees a "*berdugo*" (executioner) where he insists sits a misunderstood public servant, Lacson straight out pleaded incompetence in playing this game of perceptions. "*Mahina ako sa* media, *eh*. (I have a poor relationship with the media)," he shrugged.

The second thing Ping Lacson will stress beyond his problems with the press is that the charges leveled against him aren't true. This is an important point to make because, really, much of what assaults his image isn't all coming from reporters, editors and columnists. There are actual cases pending in the courts and the Commission on Human Rights, for example. On these levels, Lacson concedes that he simply should "speak the truth."

"They link me to drugs. I tell them of the circumstances why they should not be believed. I point out the lies and fabrications. Mary Ong, for example, in her affidavit said that on May 7, 1998, 'General Lacson partook of his share from the proceeds of drugs recycled by his people.' But in May 1998, there was no election yet, Erap was not yet President, and I was on floating status. I didn't even have any subordinates in the PNP. I was all alone."

Simple argument

There are many such inconsistencies that can be pointed out in the proper time and forum, the former police chief says confidently. The most important thing, he repeats, is that the truth is on his side. "I can also point to my track record to show people that I was never involved in drug trafficking, kidnapping and the like. The argument is very simple."

He says he turned down P5- to P10-million bribe from gambling and *jueteng* despite the fact that, had he taken the monthly stipend from these so-called "victimless crimes," nobody would likely have known "because the giver and the receiver are cooperating."

There are days when the accusations are enough to make a grown man cry, he admits, adding that any grown man "who says he doesn't cry is lying." On such days—or more accurately, late evenings—Ping Lacson will likely be in his car, alone, cruising Metro Manila incognito. Despite his endorsement of a brandy (for purely financial reasons, he admits) the former police officer doesn't drink. He quit smoking 20 years ago—he says he quit once and never looked back—so driving is his only therapy.

"When there's no more traffic on the streets, I get in my car and just drive for hours to no place in particular. There are security precautions, of course, and I travel incognito. It's very peaceful, very calming, and it's during these hours that I can think clearly."

A thought crossed my mind: If I could follow this dark shadow around Metro Manila, should I? If you could tail Ping Lacson for a night, would you? Where is he headed? Where will he lead me? What secrets will he give away?

What disappointments and/or revelations await us for taking this risk, for following this man? We all wonder yet we all know one thing: You follow Ping at your own peril, and yet in the end it's the only real way to answer so many questions.

When he was younger and new to the police force, Lacson says he really did feel like the hero in some movie. Even then he had already gotten so far.

His mother was a seamstress, his father a jeepney driver. Together, the couple raised eight children in Imus, Cavite, and put them all through public school. Young Panfilo, the fourth child, went to the Lyceum to work for a degree in Philosophy, but he ended up at the Philippine Military Academy when that ultimately became the only affordable option for the family.

When Lacson announced his plans for 2004, he also declared that, should he win the presidency, he would go all out for a national population management program.

Observers saw it as an overt signal to Flavier—long pilloried by the Catholic Church for the same stance—that he was serious about that September talk. Lito Banayo, one of Lacson's closest advisers, says that in truth, Ping simply knew how big families impact severely on households. "He knew how hard his parents had to work just to send them to school," Banayo says.

Like some hero

Still, when 2nd Lt. Lacson joined the Metropolitan Police Commission, he was so brimming with idealism, he almost got himself killed on one of his first foot patrols as a junior officer.

"We were the frontliners when Martial Law was declared. *Mga segundo kamote eh.* On my first assignment, *sugod nang sugod, akala mo bida ka sa pelikula* (I kept charging, like some hero in the movies). One night we were on patrol in Makati and we were imposing a gun check on people. We saw some policemen with what were obviously guns bulging from their hips. I was naïve, I thought it was as simple as approaching them, and telling them to surrender the weapons." He cut to the chase: If it weren't for his more experienced companions stepping in, there would have surely been a gunfight, and the rookie would have been the first to die.

He did not, obviously, and since leaving the PMA, it is Lacson whom many want to hold accountable for other ended lives.

Ironically, he actually has little combat experience. His first posting was with the Metrocom—the police—precisely because he failed to get sent to Mindanao with any military branch of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

While training for deployment, a classmate's weapon accidentally fired, wounding Lacson and sending him straight to the hospital. By the time he got out, his classmates were fighting Muslim secessionists and communist insurgents in the hills, and Lacson was doomed to begin his career behind a desk with the Philippine Constabulary Metrocom Investigation Division.

Fortunately, he found intelligence work to be intoxicating.

One of his first missions was to arrest Joseph Estrada, then the mayor of San Juan, after Erap had beaten up Rudy Fernandez over some girl. Nearly two decades later, in 1991, Estrada would get ready for a successful campaign to become vice president, Rudy Fernandez would portray Lacson in a movie, and the rising officer would cement his relationship with the police.

That year, the Aquino Administration decided to undo Marcos' experiment with the PC. It was to be reabsorbed into a truly civilian National Police organization. For officers like Lacson, the choices were to either be absorbed by the PNP or to remain in the Armed Forces. Lacson feared getting left behind by his contemporaries, who were by then through with being company and battalion commanders. Seeing no real option, he protected his rank in the police until, in 1999, Estrada appointed him chief of the PNP.

By then Lacson was as big a celebrity as Filipino policemen could get. He became the cornerstone of Vice President Estrada's Presidential Anti-Crime Commission, as well as the poster boy for its Untouchables notoriety. The Filipino-Chinese community credited him with solving many kidnap-for-ransom cases, but the larger public had begun to be split as to what exactly they thought and believed of his reputation as a "supercop."

Now that he is running for President, they still can't agree on what he really represents.

Doctor President?

From page H4

school. Grew up in an impoverished mining community in Benguet, spent 31 of his 67 years as a doctor in hinterland barrios, de-worming children, digging latrines.

The facts naturally conjure images of a medical samurai-saint, a cross between Mother Teresa, Kwai-Chang Caine, and MacGyver. I find it hard to connect the information with the cackling Yoda-meets-Danny-De Vito charmer who once scandalized Senator Tatad at the International Conference on Population and Development conference (by saying he had invented a condom that glowed in the dark "so that elderly priests will know where it is").

A presidentiable? I whisk out a few questions that I hope would indicate what kind of a Chief Executive he'd make:

What did you think about us being in the Coalition of the Willing?

I've been asked on radio: "Would you be inclined to do what GMA did?" *Sabi ko*, why not? I was against sending our troops, but I had no compunctions about saying, "I support you." Why? First, there was the matter of potential employment for our OFWs. Second, I was in favor of sending humanitarian aid, although my definition of what we could offer was narrower. *Maski na* 100 warm bodies, *okey na sa akin*. Symbolic, e. We're a poor country, we have many needs right here. Still, we have international commitments. I had no problem with that.

What about the Balikatan?

I had some strong feelings about it, because I was already in the Senate when we approved the Visiting Forces Agreement. First of all, it was clear in our talks: "not in combat zones." So when they went to train in Basilan, I was not happy about it. What really upset me was, if you recall, the Pentagon announced that the exercises would be held in Sulu. We denied it. Then it turned out the US was telling the truth.

When there's this kind of training, does money change hands?

Hindi naman. Chances are, at least 75 percent of the modern equipment that would be brought in would end up for us to keep. Trucks, for example, night-vision goggles, arms, ammunition. They brought in a movable hospital. It was really just a big tent, but the equipment inside made it equivalent to a first-rate hospital here. During the Basilan exercises, the US Engineering Corps built schools, roads and conducted a medical mission. All of those are pluses. That helps. That's how the political dynamics go.

Your website discusses an Alternative Medicine Act.

At the root of it all was my concern about the high cost of medical care and medicines in the country. There are many models (for addressing this). There's parallel importation, or we can manufacture our own medicines. Then it boiled down to (encouraging the production of) our own herbal medicine. Having said that, I believed that should be elements of alternative medical care—some call it *arbulario*. I proposed that we study it.

When I was working in the barrios, I learned that 97 percent of patients went to them first. I also found out that of the things that *arbularios* did, one-third was scientific, one-third was harmful, one-third was neutral. My position was, let's isolate the useful and teach that, discourage the harmful practices. As for the one-third that's neutral, just leave it. The fun began when the majority of medical doctors opposed the proposal. I told them: those that can afford you, you can keep as your patients. But the 40 percent who are poor, who cannot afford you, what shall we do? Give them to me, here. Things got personal. They knew how to lobby, and they went straight to the congressmen. *Naging brasohan* (it came down to strong-arm tactics).

At this point, the senator gleefully relates how he beat some congressmen at their own game by refusing to sponsor their initiatives to have schools erected in their districts. "Why is this important? If you're a congressman, and you are not able to create a new school in your *barangay*, you're going to lose (the next election)."

He sat on the bill for a month, until they got the message and buckled under. As a final touch, because so many people had told him that alternative medicine was *mali* (wrong), he renamed the bill so that its acronym would would read T.A.M.A (correct): Traditional and Alternative Medicine Act.

For all that, the doctor says his stint in the Senate is simply not as fun as his stint was as Secretary of Health, when he could "decide and do it."

The Senate, he says, is really a debating club. "Most of the time, when there's a problem, we talk some more. And then it takes forever to pass a bill—about half a year to a year—because my colleagues are very meticulous, very careful about details, which is good, but the pace is just too slow for my style."

But back to one last question: What would you do if you were president?

"Good question, but one that I'm not ready to answer yet. First I'd like to be able to say that I'm running, then let's sit again and I'll tell you what I think."

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Mom shares weighty facts on Pediasure

Pink lips, sun-kissed cheeks and an active lifestyle not to mention a hearty appetite are every mother's gauge of their children's good health. However, every mother knows too that the numbers on their pediatrician's weighing scale may yet tell a different story.

Dr. Liza Francisco, an OB-GYN, and a mother of two, had to follow both her instinct as a mom and as a woman of medicine when faced with her daughters' weight concerns.

Kate and Cheenie

"My daughter Kate, now 4 1/2 years old is really hyperactive. When she was 6 months old, she developed constipation from drinking her formula milk. That and her active state, her weight was not improving."

"On the other hand, my youngest daughter Cheenie, who's 3 years old, was a diagnosed case of ventricular septal defect." Also called VSD, it is a condition wherein a baby is found to have a hole between the right and left ventricle of the heart. *"Again, it was at 6 months that it became more apparent that she was not gaining the ideal weight for her age"*, Dr. Francisco explains.

The Doctor is In... the house!

Being a Mom, these turn of events were definitely a cause of worry. But then, Dr. Francisco knew what needed to be done.

"Since I'm a doctor, upon seeing my daughters' growth patterns, I opted to shift them to high caloric milk." She was introduced to no less than Pediasure by her sisters, whose children were drinking Pediasure for some time.

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Gaining from Pediasure

Dr. Francisco points out that her daughters loved the taste of Pediasure. In fact, Kate was drinking 2 to 3 glasses of Pediasure a day while Cheenie would have 3 to 4 glasses a day. The weight gain was achieved in about 2 to 3 months and according to Dr. Fransisco, family and friends couldn't help but notice.

Dr. Francisco was happy that Pediasure gave her the results she wanted for her daughters. The benefit was undeniably clear. "At least even if they don't eat lots of solids, they are on Pediasure! The other thing is, I have observed that they don't get sick often" she volunteers to say.

Now, Dr. Francisco admits to even recommending Pediasure to her friends and patients. Ask your pediatrician about Pediasure today. Or call Pediasure's Nutri hotline **746-0669** Monday to Friday for free nutritional advice.

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Doctor President?

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

By Tad Ermitaño

I AM asked to turn in my license at the neighborhood's guardhouse, but I am not asked who I mean to visit or why.

I pull up to his house. The front door is shielded from the street by non-forbidding shrubbery. There are no security guards, no guys in *barongs*, no radio glossolalia, nothing.

The genial, middle-class clutter testifies to a domestic temperament that doesn't have a lot of time to spend on manicuring itself—children's toys under the piano, brown envelopes on the sofa.

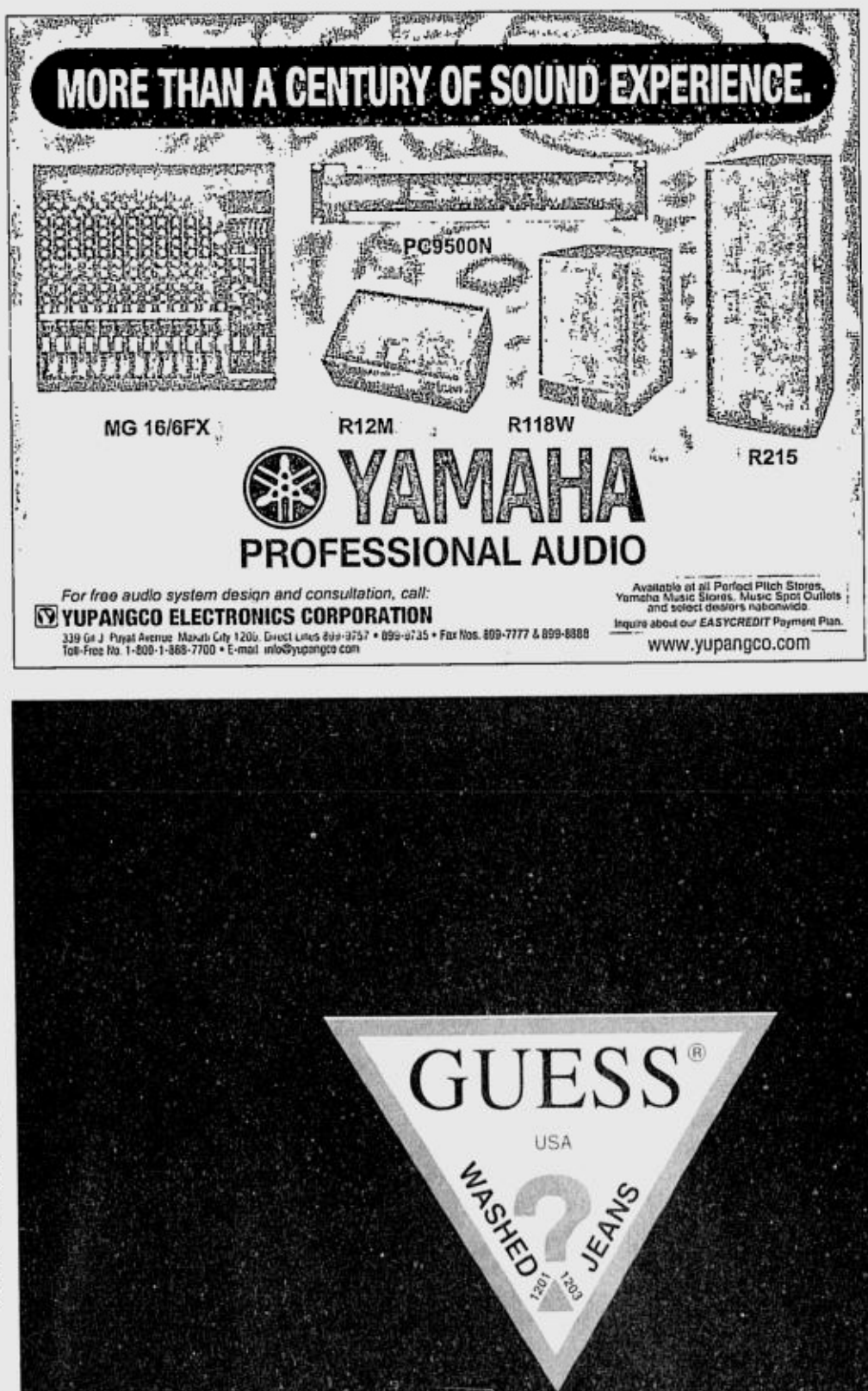
A large portion of the *sala* is occupied by a couple of cardboard boxes filled primarily with Cokes and Doritos. Ms Flavier explains that these are supplies for a son who runs a little eatery in John Hay, up in Baguio.

The Senator joins us. His crisply-ironed polo gives him a slightly formal air—an impression promptly disputed by the floppy shorts and *tsinelas* that complete his ensemble. There is something of the schoolboy in his haircut, an impression reinforced when he hands me a brown envelope filled with copies of articles about himself, like handing in his homework—except that he's handing me mine. "You can read them, or throw them away," he says.

Juan Flavier: born 67 years ago in Tondo, the fourth child in a brood of six. His father was a mechanic, his mother a housewife who later sold clothing door-to-door to put her darling boy through medical

DOCTOR/ H3

Juan Flavier suggests he's facing long odds in a probable attempt at the presidency



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By Jessica Zafra

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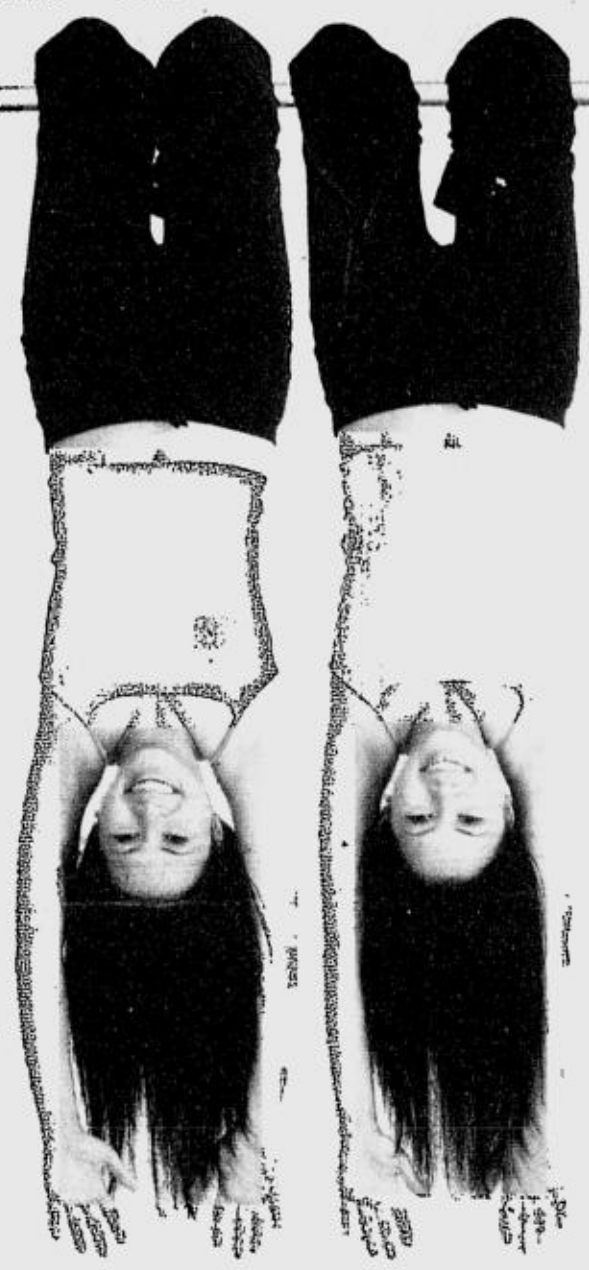

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NO. OF DEPENDENTS
CITIZENSHIP
HOME OWNERSHIP ☐ OWNED ☐ MORTGAGED ☐ RENTED ☐ WITH PARENTS/RELATIVES
EDUCATION ☐ HIGHSCHOOL ☐ SOME COLLEGE ☐ COLLEGE ☐ GRADUATE SCHOOL
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HOME ADDRESS (number, street, district)
CITY/PROVINCE ZIP CODE YEARS OF STAY
HOME LANDLINE NO. MOBILE PHONE NO.
EMAIL ADDRESS
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☐ EMPLOYED ☐ SELF-EMPLOYED POSITION YEARS WITH FIRM
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OFFICE ADDRESS (department, floor, building)
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CITY/PROVINCE ZIP CODE OFFICE PHONE NO.

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SPOUSE'S
OTHERS
TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME

DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS
BANK BRANCH DEPOSIT BALANCE

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FPJ, the epic hero

By Uro Q. Dela Cruz

MOST of the provincial movie houses are closed now. Today's generation may never know the luxury of spending a whole afternoon watching double-programs inside a dark and noisy moviehouse while food peddlers scamper about and cat-sized rats wend they way among the *tsinelas* on the floor.

We discovered Fernando Poe Jr. in our small *sawali*-walled movie house in the province. His earlier movies about Manila hoods and the Lo-Waist Gang series were interesting only because they inspired us to organize our own gang. Otherwise, their settings were unfamiliar to us *probinsiyanos*. At that time the man who would be Da King was just one of the many young Tagalog actors. The biggies were the swashbuckling Efren Reyes, Tony Marzan, Leopoldo Salcedo and Johnny Monteiro, who taught us to fight with swords fashioned out of Gumamela stalks.

Then from the rice fields rode forth our hero, the gun-slinging Daniel Barrion, the quintessential Pinoy cowboy. Fernando Poe Jr. was anointed the future king of Filipino movies in "Baril sa Baril," where Efren Reyes Sr. played his father (at the time, it had the same effect as Sean Connery playing Harrison Ford's father in "Indiana Jones"). As far as I can recall, it was the first and last time that FPJ had a father in a movie.

So we became fans forever. My *barkada* wished for pistols for Christmases and birthdays. We spent afternoons twirling our guns 'round our fingers. We started to wear wider belts. We lowered the waistlines of our pants. And the eldest among us, the son of the movie house owner, got himself a boy *alalay* (assistant) when Fernando Poe Jr. got young Jay Ilagan to appear regularly in his movies.

The influence went beyond fashion. He was changing our view of the world. For our generation it was a time of discovery. Jun Aristorenas and Jess Lapid introduced us to sex, in love scenes (rolls in the *dayami*) with the legendary Divina Valencia and Stella Suarez. FPJ taught us how to deal with women, properly. He was never vocal about his feelings for a woman, making it known only by being obviously aloof, becoming almost tongue-tied when the woman talked to him directly, smiling sheepishly when a woman thanked him for saving her life, bowing when an old woman talked to him, and seething quietly and keeping his temper when a woman of authority insulted him. He never raised his voice.

He rode into town, fixed the lives of the downtrodden, and left at the end of the film. The formula was uncomplicated: quiet stranger arrives, a family of simple folk takes him in, he befriends a young boy and falls in love with the boy's elder sister. He gets a beating from the goons of the abusive land lord, gets insulted and does nothing, even as the boy who idolizes him begins to question his manhood. Towards the end, when his adoptive family is in real danger, he fights back and wins. Then he leaves town. The boy is always left behind, thankful for all that he learned from the man. The role of Jay Ilagan was coveted by almost all the child actors of succeeding generations, from Niño Muhlach to Vandolph.

Many years later, after watching a revival of Kurosawa's "Yojimbo," I thought FPJ was the Filipino samurai as cowboy, years ahead of the Clint Eastwood hero in the spaghetti westerns. I didn't know that a more revealing discovery was to come.

Back then, FPJ was our only hero. His honor had never been tainted by the corruption attendant to power and wealth. He never questioned the necessity of being decent.

Hollywood sojourns

While the Sampaguita Pictures Stars of the '60s were doing variations on "West Side Story," Fernando Poe Jr. continued doing cowboy movies, stopping only when he appeared in Hollywood-produced English movies, where he played anti-Japanese guerillas. He starred with John Saxon in "The Ravagers," and with Jock Mahoney in "Walls of Hell." He made us proud because our hero could say his lines comfortably in English, unlike the attempts of Leopoldo Salcedo and Efren Reyes Sr. in other such productions. At this time, we began to suspect that he was an American mestizo.

As Jay Ilagan grew out of his role, so did we. By this time our *barkada* had disbanded and some of us had dropped out of school.

Fernando Poe Jr. got married to the Queen of Philippine movies. They did a rework of the romantic comedy, "It Happened One Night," to unofficially announce their engagement. By the time the movie was shown in our provincial movie house, they had already gotten married and a newsreel of their wedding, including their reception at The Plaza, was shown as a "Special Added Attraction."

In his next film, again with his wife Susan Roces, he actually sang! I still remember the song: "Silayan." He did yet another movie with his wife, and then he kept his married life hidden from the public altogether. The truth is, like real fans, we did not care about his private life. For us, FPJ existed only in his roles. It did not matter to us when we learned that he'd started to direct his own films; we were sure that he had always directed himself.

> He was the only role model of my generation. This is why his stature has lingered way beyond his prime

There's a story that went around in the '70s about the filming of the movie "Santiago," directed by Lino Brocka. It was said that when Brocka insisted that FPJ's character had to die, the actor invited the director into his car and drove from their location in Batangas all the way to Manila, flooring the gas pedal and never letting go. By the time they reached Manila, the story went, Brocka's hair had turned to white. As fans, we would not have agreed to have FPJ's character die, either.

Celso Ad. Castillo directed FPJ in "Asedillo" in 1971. In the film, FPJ mouthed Maoist slogans paraphrased to sound like Southern Tagalog folk proverbs. The film reflected our sentiments at the time. We were in college in Manila, and when Martial Law was declared, we thought all Tagalog movies had become irrelevant.

Except for one: Celso Ad. Castillo's "Ang Alamat." It was a successful sublimation of the samurai/cowboy/rebel persona that FPJ had been giving life to in his films. For me, it was the quintessential FPJ movie, and the reason I never dreamed of writing a movie for FPJ, even when I joined the industry in the '80s. Almost all the scriptwriters of the time did, but I knew that any attempt on my part would end up short of "Ang Alamat." None of the movies he did afterwards came close to it. Not even the "Panday" series, not even the epic "Aguila."

Precious trivia

Industry workers have access to information not readily available to ordinary fans. I learned that Ronald Allan Poe was born in 1939, and has five siblings. To be an actor, he dropped out of high school. He started in the movies as a stuntman. He read Henry Miller ("Tropic of Capricorn," "Black Spring"). And unlike his roles in the movies, he enjoys a drink. His name came from the original Pou, a Spanish name, and he is not in any way related to Edgar Allan.

A few years ago, I saw a video of "Shane," and saw where the FPJ movie formula came from. ("Shane! Shane! Come back, Shane!") I understood why there had to be the young Jay Ilagan character, and why it was important for the boy to witness FPJ being beaten up.

Shane never was shown in our *sawali*-walled moviehouse, so none of my *barkada* ever saw it. And I dared reveal my discovery. They would have hated me for breaking their life-long suspension of disbelief. Perfect was the FPJ of our childhood, when characters could be neatly classified as *bida* (hero), *kontrabida* (villain), or "extra."

I joined a concert tour in Mindanao in the early '80s by the group They Call It Guts, composed of Michael de Mesa, Tirso Cruz III, Bembol Roco, Rez Cortez, and Ruel Vernal. As we prepared to go on a motorcade around Cagayan de Oro City, the organizers warned us not to take Rez, Bembol, and Ruel.

They were sure that FPJ fans would throw stones at the three *kontrabidas* in their hero's life.

FPJ was the only role model of my generation. This is why his stature has lingered beyond his prime. The next generations of *bida*—from Rudy Fernandez to Robin Padilla to Bong Revilla—experimented with the roles of the *tarantado*, the reformed convict, the prodigal son, the small-time criminal, the womanizer, the man with a dark past, the hero with hidden guilt, the coward. These were the roles played by Erap.

While Erap shared the limelight with FPJ, they seemed to have made an arrangement: FPJ would play the good boys, and Erap the bad boys.

Whenever they played together, Erap would be the one who got into trouble and FPJ the one who was decent and cautious. It was an excellent arrangement. It ended when Erap entered politics.

Of late, people have been talking about FPJ running for president. The latest sign is his new style of clothing. Gone are the simple Ilocano shirts, replaced by Hawaiian shirts. He has kept mum on the issue.

But we trust him to make a prudent and honorable decision. We want to hear him say, as he did to the townfolk in "Asedillo": "*Ako ay isang isda lamang, kayo ang aking dagat* (I am only a fish, you are my ocean)."

Of course I am only talking for my generation. It was difficult to introduce FPJ to my children. My eldest daughter once had to write about an FPJ movie she saw on TV. She described it as a movie "about an old policeman who is in love with a beautiful *balikbayan*."

I was hurt.

Nearly everybody loves Raul Roco

From page 11

It would be difficult not to.

Roco has invited us to his farm, Maogmang Lugar (Bikolano for "Happy Place") in Antipolo. We arrive 10 minutes early, and as our photographer cases the joint for possible settings, I duck into the washroom. That's how I discover the Raul Roco House of Memorabilia. That's what the sign says: "Raul Roco House of Memorabilia." The walls of two rooms are covered with framed honorary degrees, newspaper and magazine articles, and portraits of the man. The *togas* he wore when the degrees were conferred are neatly folded in plastic bags and stacked on low shelves; near the sink are commemorative mugs from his speaking engagements. The place isn't tacky or ostentatious, but it bespeaks a man who knows he is important, and is not shy about announcing it.

Raul Roco himself arrives exactly on time, wearing the customary Hawaiian shirt. He is accompanied by his wife Sonia, his son Raul Junior, and four grandchildren. "Let me give you a tour of the place," Roco announces, and the kids chorus, "Can we bring the sticks?"

They mean walking sticks to help us across the uneven terrain. "This is the 'Lord of the Rings' section," Roco tells us, indicating a rock formation.

"That's where the hobbits live." As the interviewer is a Tolkein freak, this is an excellent start.

In his rubber *tsinelas* he briskly covers ground and we obediently trot after him. "My health is good," he tells us later. "Because I'm consciously exercising, I actually feel healthy. I have the usual complaints. I had prostate trouble—80 percent of men over 50 will have prostate trouble—but I'm fine now. When I was in Africa, they spread a rumor that I was dying. That's why I disappeared *daw*. When I came back I met the Bishop of Bulacan, and he said, 'I thought you were dying!' *Sabi ko*, 'But on the third day, I rose again.' My blood pressure is 130/85. My sugar is a little high. My uric acid used to be high, because I like *dinuguan*. I rest."

Pompon from Bombon

Raul Roco grew up on a farm in Barangay Pabrica, Bombon, Camarines Sur. His father was the farm manager. "I was called Pompon," he says, "Pompon from Bombon. Bombon is a very small town, so if someone calls me Pompon, I know he is from Pabrica."

He has a strong sentimental attachment to his hometown. "In his mind, Bombon is the place where everything in the world can be found," Sonia Roco notes.

Even, apparently, the Leaning Tower of Pisa. On a tour of Italy, Roco listened politely as the guide regaled them with stories of the Leaning Tower. At the end of the spiel, Roco piped up: "It's just like the church tower in Bombon!"

Roco stops to identify every tree, shrub, and flowering plant, often giving their scientific names: there's *durian, santol,* mangosteen, *rambutan, okra, siniguelas,* lychees, *gumamela,* and pine. Among his many accomplishments you might add "Botany lecturer." He picks the fruit from the *aratiles* tree and hands it to us; we munch as if we'd received an order. Friendly and charming as he is, he still comes across as stern, slightly remote, rather like a father who won't tolerate impertinence. Which might actually be a good thing: most everyone agrees that Pinoys could use some discipline.

While lunch is being prepared, we sit in the shade and get the most painful topic out of the way. That would be the economy. "We must address the deficit," Roco says. "We need debt restructuring. Every year we spend P240 billion for debt servicing. I don't like to ask for money, but we could ask for one year of debt relief. Just one year. Not the entire P240 billion, just half.

> But will they love him all the way to the 2004 election?

P120 billion would go a long way, provided there is no corruption. For instance, P10 million can build a one-kilometer, two-lane road. With P1 billion, we could build a hundred-kilometer road. For P20 billion we could pay for the MRT from Antipolo to Lucena. We spend P1 billion each for 16 regional hospitals. You know, an MRI machine costs less than a million dollars. This would improve health care service—no more mumbo-jumbo in diagnosing ailments."

It will work, he says, "as long as there is no corruption."

Speaking of which ...

The words "no corruption" lead to a discussion of his achievements as Education Secretary. "At the Department of Education, we instituted open bidding. We found that one textbook that was going for P61, could be bought for only P22. In 10 months we built 500 classrooms and rehabilitated another 400. I really cut out the service charges. Can you believe it—the payroll system deducted 2 percent from the teachers just for preparing the cheque?

And then I got Congress to remove (the surcharge). They put it back in."

This is where the Presidency makes the difference, he declares. "Gloria should have just kept me. I had them straightened out. Everybody lived by the rules."

Half a million teachers knew his cellphone number, he says. "Everybody would text me, *nagsusumbong* (reporting). 'Sir, delayed *ba ang* salary *ngayon*?' When the teacher has direct access, *magsusumbong*. So when I called the principal to say, 'Principal, *merong mga reklamo dito na ganito* (I've received complaints),' *hindi makatanggi* (they couldn't deny it)."

Lunch is served in the main house. I bring up the all-time most frequently-asked question: Where did he get those shirts? Roco is such a skillful interviewee that he can still appear interested in this tired subject. He buys the fabric from a seller in Kamuning, and he also gets a lot of shirts as gifts.

The gifts must come in handy because the man's schedule leaves no time to do laundry. His willingness to speak at any and all public forums—wherever there is an audience—makes him a formidable campaigner. He would speak at the opening of an umbrella.

Unlike the other "presidentiables," Raul Roco has known for a long time that he will be in politics. "It was a natural progression for me because of the student movement. That is why I ran for the Constitutional Convention (during the Marcos years). I thought then that Constitutional change would bring about change. Not true. People will bring about change."

One-minute manager

Having consistently rated highest in surveys, it may be argued that Raul Roco is the strongest contender in the coming presidential elections. And since he is ostensibly the biggest threat to his opponents' aspirations, he's been the subject of rumors ranging from the vicious to the silly. Oddly enough, it's the most seemingly inconsequential "issue" that has hounded him the longest: he has been described as *masungit* (grouchy), ill-tempered, and given to berating people in public.

"I'm strict; there is no question about it," Roco says. "But I am a one-minute manager. I reprimand you, and one minute from now, I forget. Those guys who say *masungit*—they're lying. They never saw me."

Let's pretend that the election is over, and Raul Roco has been proclaimed President. What happens next? He would start by reorganizing the Cabinet into a smaller group that would meet in clusters. The entire cabinet would meet less often. "Then we must strengthen the civil service. *Kailangan mahigpit ka* (you must be firm). *Kailangan* the bureaucracy must be proud of what they are doing."

Raul Roco believes that, image-wise, Filipinos could use some positive reinforcement. "I use the expression 'Only in the Philippines' in a positive way. I say, '*Idol ko ang Pilipino*.'"

Our talk ends right where it started: The Economy. Given the dire prognostications about the Philippines' economic prospects, should we even cling to hope?

"The first two years of the next administration will make or break the country. If we (manage well), maybe the Philippines has a future. If we fail, half our good professionals will leave, everybody will be protecting their own interests. In the next government, honesty will be a duty for survival. You cannot afford to steal, there is nothing more to steal."

Roco offers an analogy: "Even in the Mafia, there were good gangs and bad gangs. The bad gangs ran their neighborhood badly, they were taking all the profits from the neighborhood guys. The good gangs, *ang kukunin tamang-tama lang. Umuunlad naman ang* business, and you're happy *naman, sige* for protection, *magbibigay ka*. (The good gangs take just enough. Anyway the businesses do well, so the people don't mind giving a little protection money)."

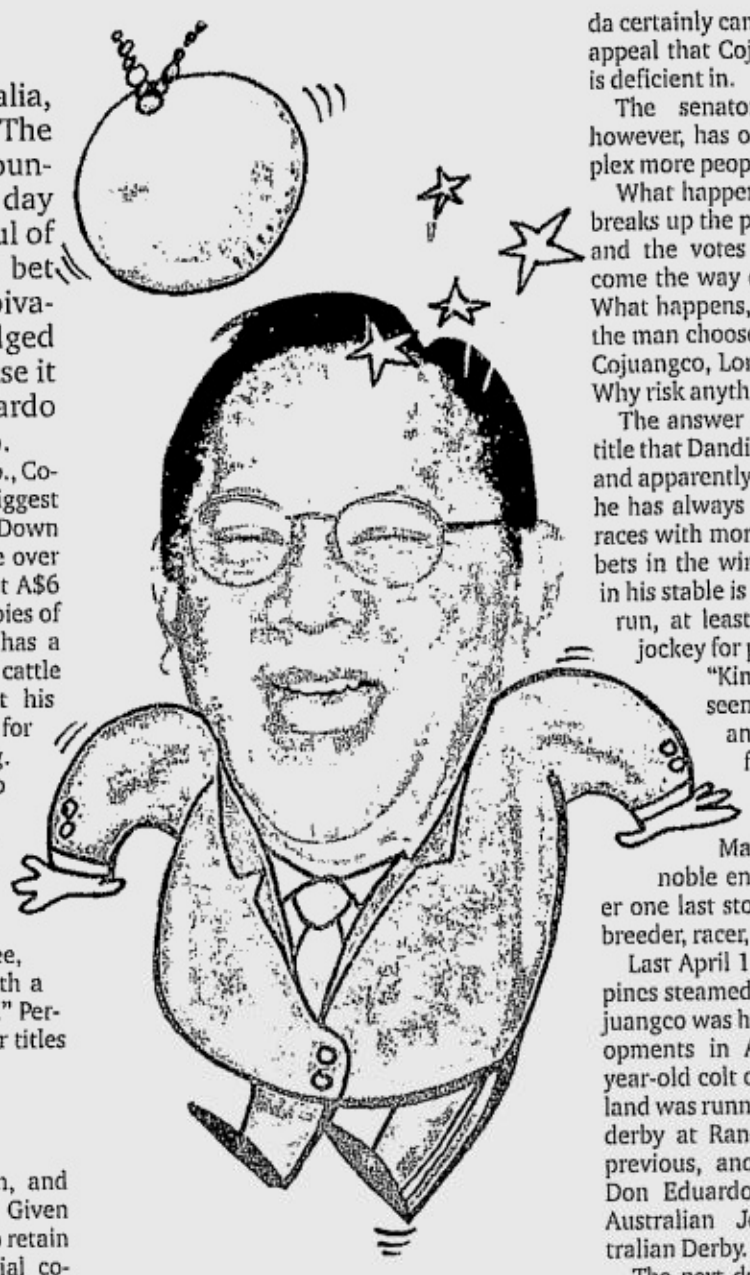
It's disturbing to hear the Philippine economy compared to the Mafia, mostly because the analogy isn't a stretch. Roco, the consummate public speaker, steers us back to his point: "We have no choice but to be honest."

That's almost scary.

The Boss

Cojuangco is the first to acknowledge that, as a title, 'presidentiable' means nothing. It is to acknowledgement for clout and influence, but it is also assurance of nothing, except the possibility of losing everything

By Roby Alampay



EVEN in Australia, they call him The Boss, and in a country that stops for a day just to watch a handful of horse races, you can bet the term is less ambivalent and double-edged than when Filipinos use it to refer to Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

Through San Miguel Corp., Cojuangco is one of the biggest sponsors of horse racing Down Under and, by one estimate over the past year, put in at least A$6 million into the biggest derbies of the year. On his own, he has a vineyard and invests in cattle holdings in Australia, but his popular reputation there is for horse breeding and racing. He reportedly employs no less than 20 specialists.

Of this "peso squillionaire," The Sydney Morning Herald's Max Presnell wrote: "All around (the Australian town of) Mudgee, they call him The Boss with a reverence rare in the bush." Perhaps, he said, "he has other titles back home."

He sure does.

Pacman

Let's start with Pacman, and get it out of the way quick. Given Cojuangco's legal battles to retain control of the controversial coconut levy fund and corresponding shares in San Miguel, people are quick to tie the man first and foremost to Ferdinand Marcos.

Cojuangco was the richest and most powerful private citizen at the time that Marcos and his cronies—Cojuangco most reviled among them—fled to Hawaii. He was president and CEO of the United Coconut Planters Bank, governor of the Development Bank of the Philippines, vice president of the family-owned Philippine Bank of Communications, and chair and CEO of SMC.

His investments included interests in other food and beverage companies, the chemical and cement industries, agriculture, logging, transportation, shipping, and... Filipinos got the picture. With the country's president for a friend and forced contributions from farmers, Cojuangco quite simply went *co-juaca-juaca-juaca-juaca*, one joke went.

When he came back, however... the man Larry Henares tagged as Pacman still was rich and powerful, so much so that he made a credible run at the presidency against Cory Aquino's Fidel Ramos. Were it not for Imelda splitting the loyalist vote, people wondered with gnashing teeth how much better Cojuangco would have fared. When the dust settled, Danding's family was legally back in their hacienda, and San Miguel was more firmly—though never without dispute—in his hands.

A funny thing happened to San Miguel, however, when Cojuangco got back in the saddle. It got out of a rut and started making money. SMC has done so well that Danding was called less derisive names now:

Businessman.
Economist.
Survivor.
Leader.
The Chairman.
The Boss.

For those who cannot read nor accept the above without wincing, there is also this: Danding is once again being called a "presidentiable." Ironically, it is the most objective and least emotional statement of where he is and where he may or may not be headed. On the one hand, after all, to be a presidentiable is to be acknowledged for clout and influence. On the other hand, it is to be assured of nothing, except the possibility of being embarrassed and losing everything.

Cojuangco is the first to acknowledge that, as a title, it means nothing.

He is the first to admit that even he has not felt the "groundswell" and popular support those pushing him to run assure him of. In the past half year, the businessman has been touring the country precisely to see for himself. "Consultations" he calls the barnstorming.

Critics scoff that he has begun campaigning, but those close to him insist that the man merely wants to see how realistic his supposed chances were. There are two things any man who runs must contemplate in all seriousness, Cojuangco says. "One, you have to see if you can win. And two, if you honestly believe that you can do some good if you win."

On the first point, he is the main skeptic that needs convincing. Last July, he admitted to reporters a feeling—and observation—that the masses "don't consider me one of them."

Cojuangco said: "I have to work double-time. Even if I have a good idea and my programs are right, a major consideration is still one's appeal to the masses. If you don't win they will remain ideas and dreams."

On the other matter of leading the country itself, he recently told the European, American, and Canadian chambers of commerce in Manila that "everything, it seems to me, has gotten to a point where they need fixing."

When he is this honest about his candidacy and the country—and at 69 he rarely appears to mince words about either—Cojuangco sounds less enthusiastic about the prospect of running than the politicians who make up his small but very powerful base. Indeed, there are many things missing if this were in fact already a campaign. He has shunned media interviews, for one. The ruling coalition and the administration party are close to falling apart, and congressmen and local officials are holding onto him.

There is nothing to suggest that Cojuangco is anywhere near to being as popular as any of the leading personalities being mentioned for 2004. Even the beleaguered President Arroyo has consistently topped him in the polls. His numbers languish in the low single digits.

Money can probably help bring up those numbers. But again, does he really want to raise his standing in the polls, or does he genuinely want to see how much higher he will float?

Those who call him a businessman inevitably also call him a wise gambler. There is much to lose. The PCGG, the coco levy funds issue, and the all too real possibility of losing control of the SMC still hang over his head.

His latest supporter is a biggie. Sen. Loren Legarda—the leading contender for vice president under any party—has endorsed Cojuangco as the best man to lead the country at this time. She agrees completely and wholeheartedly with how Cojuangco sees the national situation. Legarda certainly can bring in the mass appeal that Cojuangco knows he is deficient in.

The senator's endorsement, however, has only served to perplex more people.

What happens, after all, if this breaks up the party, the coalition, and the votes that would have come the way of a unified front? What happens, for that matter, if the man chooses not to run? Like Cojuangco, Loren is being asked: Why risk anything?

The answer may lie in the one title that Danding has always kept and apparently loves. Win or lose, he has always emerged from the races with more than a few of his bets in the winners' circle. To be in his stable is to be guaranteed a run, at least, and a chance to jockey for position.

"Kingmaker" may seem presumptuous and, at any rate, it is for other people to bestow. But maybe "Stable Master" is good and noble enough role. Consider one last story about the horse breeder, racer, and racing patron.

Last April 18, while the Philippines steamed in uncertainty, Cojuangco was happily lost in developments in Australia. A three-year-old colt of his named Snowland was running in a A$8 million derby at Randwick. In the year previous, another horse of his, Don Eduardo, had won at the Australian Jockey Club, Australian Derby.

The next day's news reported a good day: "Lightning struck twice for billionaire Eduardo Cojuangco when gritty three-year-old Snowland won the $1 million in The Galaxy (run) at Randwick," one report read. As a sidelight the story noted that San Miguel had "heavily" sponsored the $8 million Derby."

The headline summed up the story of the man of the day: "Cojuangco wins own race."

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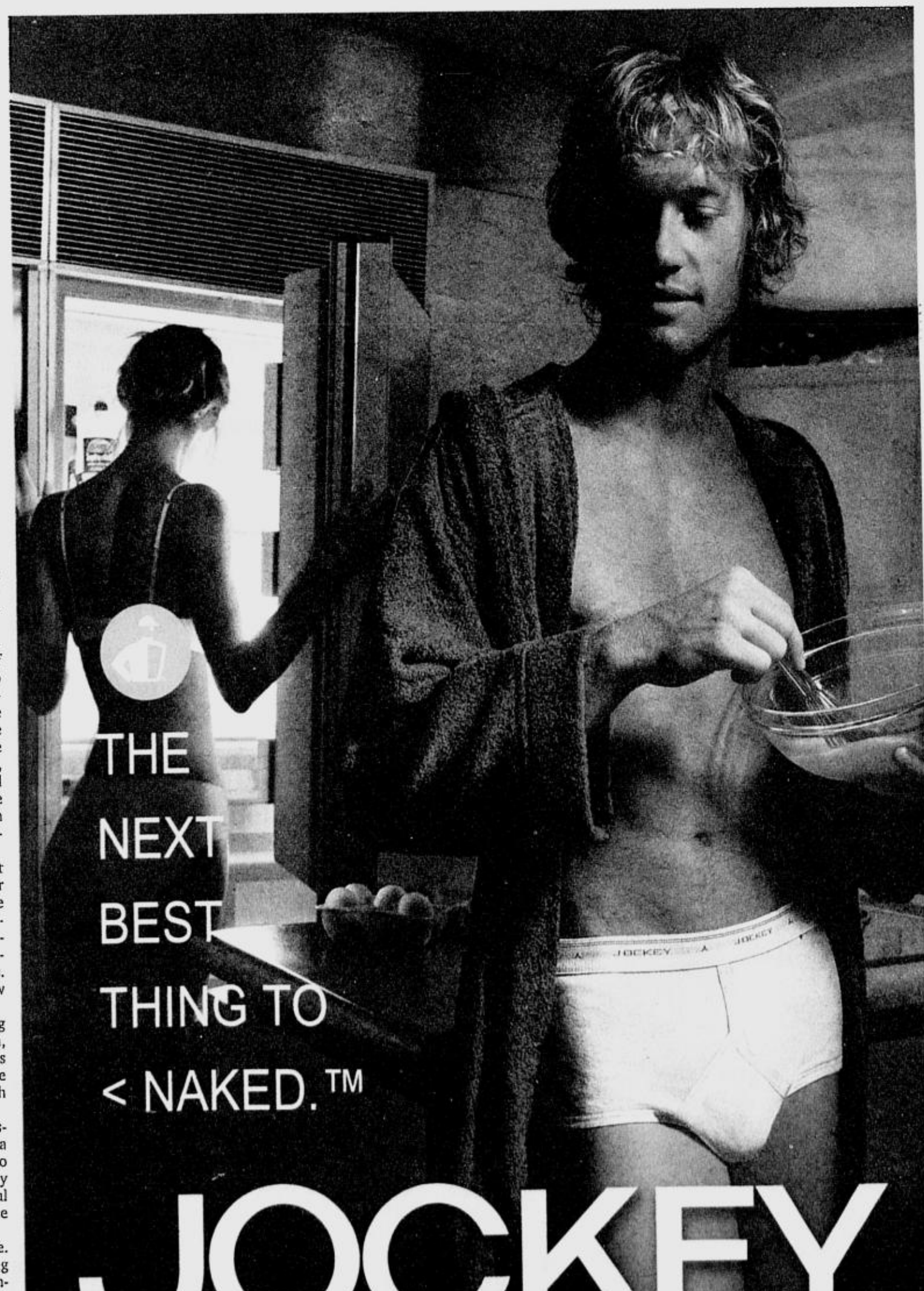


A Q&A with Sen. Noli de Castro

(or whoever filled out the questionnaire)

By Lourd Ernest De Veyra

FIRST up, the major problem. Senator Noli de Castro a.k.a. Kabayan refused to grant us an interview.

"Fax us a questionnaire instead," said an assistant. The problem with this sort of procedure is obvious. Most of the time, it's the staff members who answer the questions. You won't know if the thing even got to Sen. De Castro himself. And unless it's Nick Joaquin ghost-writing for them, the answered questionnaires are inevitably packed with platitudes, the kind you know were written by pol-sci and law graduates. You might as well say: Send us a press release. Here's a tip for all senatorial and congressional staff administrators: there's an abundance of unemployed creative writing majors out there.

But still we sent a questionnaire. The first question on the list was: "Why won't you let us interview you?" The Senator or whichever staff member it was who actually answered for him replied: "I am sure a personal interview with your staff will be an exciting experience. Unfortunately, my schedule in the Senate and my personal commitments at this time, in addition to the numerous meetings and appointments, would not permit me to immediately accommodate all requests for personal interviews."

* * *

Noli de Castro was like a furniture—he was in your house everyday. The moment you switched on the TV, he was there, with his shimmering pompadour, his pinstripe suit and heavy foundation makeup. This went on for several decades: Noli "Boy" every single day, on the dot when primetime kicked in, and there was even a time when he hosted a morning show. Now the average Filipino household watches between four to six hours of TV daily. Noli de Castro became the most popular media figure of the Philippines in the last decade by simply being on TV everyday.

The result was that the average Filipino saw more of Noli de Castro at least as often as they did their family members or their *kapitbahay*. Noli was your neighbor, the really obtrusive one. He told you when Mt. Pinatubo erupted, and how the Senate ratified the anti-bases treaty. He was the one who told you about the coups against the Cory administration, who announced the names of the election winners, and all the major, history-altering stuff. When a typhoon battered the whole of Luzon, the streets outside your windows might have been flooded and deserted, but there was always Noli de Castro framed in that incandescent little box, explaining what was happening to us. He also reported to you if you had to wade to school or not. In between these, the exposés and everyday news bits—incestuous rape, bloody murders, raids on massage parlors, hair-pulling-face-slapping encounters at the police station, showbiz items and occasionally, news. There was also his investigative magazine show Magandang Gabi Bayan, which for people of my generation was known for its post-New Year's Eve features on revelers with bloody, mutilated fingers.

This may be part of his appeal. A source from ABS-CBN close to Senator De Castro said that interviewing the man in person would probably be useless anyway. "*Para ka lang nag-*'Man-on-the-Street'" said the source. The source explained the man radiates nothing earthshaking or mysterious. "*Yung ugali niya, pang-everyman lang talaga.*" And so Noli De Castro, independent candidate, garnered 16.1 million votes, making him the number one vote-getter in the May 2001 election. It had been a foregone conclusion.

The ABS-CBN insider noted that Senator Noli had been adamant in his resolve not to run for public office. The same source added that on the last day of filing for candidacy, Sen. Noli de Castro was locked up in his office for several hours with the "big bosses"—his employers—trying to convince him to enter politics. It has long been rumored that De Castro's decision was not a personal initiative, but a result of the prodding of the head honchos over at the TV network, perpetuating that network's reputation as a political kingmaker. Other ABS-CBN talents now in the Senate include Renato Cayetano, Francis Pangilinan and Loren Legarda. It came to a point where Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, together with Sen. Franklin Drilon and Sen. Francisco Tatad, warned of an emerging ABS-CBN bloc that could render political parties obsolete.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

* * *

I was in college the first time I saw Noli De Castro up close and personal. It was during one taping of Magandang Gabi Bayan, a special debate episode and we, the students of a Catholic university, were served up as audience and reactors. The topic was family planning. My theology teacher forced me to ask a question during the open forum. In the commercial break, Kabayan approached me as he was leafing through some papers, looked at me briefly, went back to his papers, and asked: "*Ano'ng itatanong mo, iho?*" in a very bored voice. I forgot what I answered. What struck me was how thick his makeup was.

Whether you liked him or not, whatever your opinion of his intellectual capabilities or moral rectitude—these are all immaterial. Same way you can't choose your relatives, they just are. Noli De Castro is there. Always.

Except for this interview. Here is a man who has asked too many people too many questions declining to be asked himself. There's an injustice here somewhere. Whatever—he missed his chance at "an exciting experience."

Here's the answered questionnaire.

Take heed: He got 16 million votes as an independent. You could be reading about your next president.

Do you regret running for the Senate? Was life much simpler in the TV studio?

I will never regret having run for the Senate, i see the Senate as a venue to continue the public service i started when i was in the broadcast industry. I consider my present official position as a God-given privilege and with it comes great responsibility.

Life in a broadcast industry was simpler but it was extremely fulfilling. My experiences as a broadcast journalist developed in me the virtues of patriotism and independence, as well as the analytical skills needed in government service.

At this time, it is no longer important where I am most comfortable in. My position as a Senator is surely not a position of comfort. We were elected to serve the people and to bring solutions to their problems. I was elected to this position and I am willing to make sacrifices for the people and my country.

You have often been criticized for your lack of academic/political training, as well as your command of the English language. Your reaction.

History tells us that the mark of a great leader is not in his proficiency of a foreign language, nor his outstanding academic achievements, nor his long involvement in politics. A great leader is defined by his political will and his sincerity to serve the people.

As regards to my academic back ground, despite my family's financial condition, i was able to get a college degree in commerce, majoring in banking and finance. On political training, I believe that one does not have to be in politics long to know the proper workings of the government. As a broadcast journalist i dealt with people from all walks of life, most especially government officials whose conduct I exposed to the public scrutiny. Now that I am in government service, I use my vast experience as an investigative journalist to seek solutions to the problems of my *kababayans*.

Finally, on the matter of my perceived lack of proficiency in the English language, it is a personal conviction to speak and promote the use of Filipino. When I started as TV news anchor for ABS-CBN, the face of primetime news was Harry Gasser and his almost perfect English style of reporting. I felt that the common man who is unfamiliar with English was left out. For this reason, we purposely switched to Filipino to reach out to the masses and hence revolutionized primetime news. I have maintained my preference for the use of Filipino since then even in official proceedings in the Senate.

However, owing to the readership of your reputable magazine. I made an exception to accommodate this interview.

How do you feel now that you are on the other side of the fence and the one on the receiving end of criticism from the media?

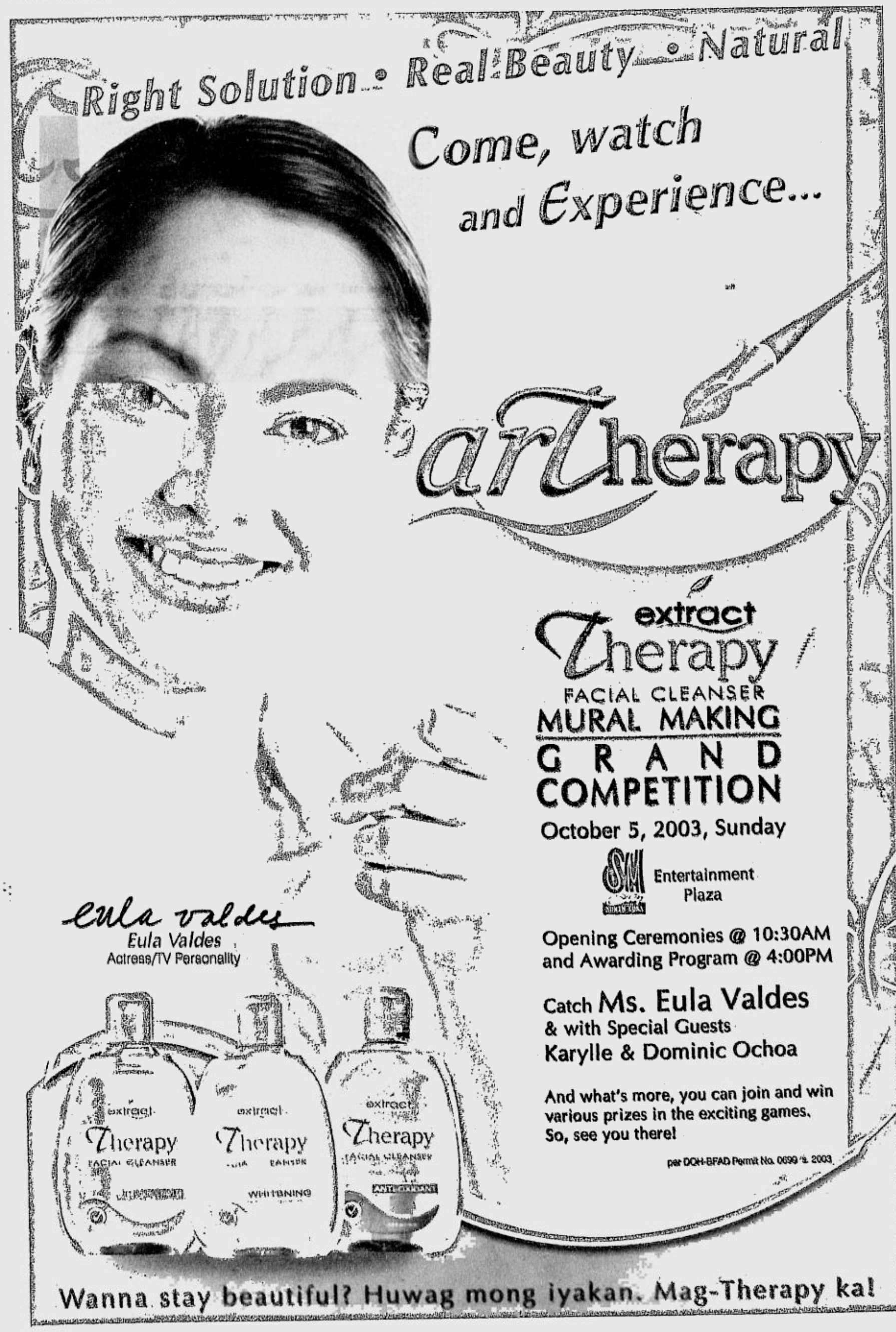
I appreciate the value of constructive criticism and the role of media, as one of the pillars of a strong democracy, in the promotion of public accountability in government service. As public servants, we are given a tremendous responsibility to promote the welfare of our constituency. I welcome all criticism from my former colleagues in the media.

In your opinion, what is wrong with this country?

I have faith that the Filipino people can overcome any challenge. They have the inherent ability to excel in all their endeavors and the resilience to solve their problems. However, what we lack is the political will of our leaders to solve the critical problems of our people, including poverty, graft and corruption, and the deteriorating peace and order situation. Furthermore, as a people, i believe we should put an end to the culture of political patronage.

What is the real score on your impending presidential future?

I believe that the presidency is a matter of destiny. Only God knows what the future holds for all of us. At present; I am focused on my legislative work. I am happy to the serve of the Filipino people in my present capacity until our lord opens a new door.



MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The mobile gadgets you'll be using next year

IT'S A Darwinian world out there. The technology marketplace is quicker and arguably crueler than Mother Nature herself. And even before a new product makes it to market, it must survive a process of natural selection in which venture capitalists, investors, and corporate committees decide what lives and what dies.

I attended one such pre-market test last week, this year's annual DEMOmobile conference in San Diego. Its producers spent the past six months sifting through more than a hundred companies with promising mobile technologies. From those, they picked just 37 to debut in front of a crowd of some 400 jaded analysts, investors, and journalists—the so-called influencers who can so affect a product's fate with an early thumbs-up or thumbs-down.

I (and a video crew and producer) was among those 400. With the camera running, I got short one-on-one briefings from principals presenting what I considered to be the most compelling products on display. Here are my quick takes on those picks

A server for the small office

Ever need remote access to files stored at home or the office? Sure, you can network, share, and remotely access PCs using a standard PC OS. But there comes a point when it's time to graduate to a real file server. I know: You quake at the thought of setting up and maintaining a server. I certainly do. That's where Mirra comes in. It's a SOHO server from a company called Ispiri that's supposed to be drop-dead easy to set up and use. CEO Richard Mandeberg describes it as a "personal file genie" that makes the setup and maintenance chores easy enough for networking neophytes.

Instant wireless networking

Wireless networks aren't entirely wireless. You still have to run cable to connect access points. That's both labor intensive and costly. But a Hawaiian company called Firetide claims to have a solution. Using 802.11b and mesh networking technology, which allows access points to wirelessly connect with each other as need be, the company set up a network covering 150,000 square feet of the hotel where DEMOmobile was held—in just six minutes. Firetide's young CEO, Tareq Hoque, explained to me how it works.

An MS smartphone for Americans

The Microsoft mini-OS developed especially for phones debuted in Europe last year. Sometime in this year's fourth quarter, it will make its US debut, in the MPx200 handset made by Motorola and sold through AT&T Wireless. This should be welcome news for those who'd like to see the familiar Windows interface migrate from PCs and PDAs to phones. Microsoft product manager Jason Gordon gave me a quick tour of the MPx200—and answered some tough questions about Microsoft's prospects in the cell phone market.

The 'universal' headset

I like to use a headset to handle phone calls. Make that headsets—one at my desk, another for my cell, and a third for the cordless phone at home. Trouble is, they all have wires—and tangles and knots. A company called Aura Communications has designed a new headset that's not only wireless but—the company claims—will work with most any headset-capable wireless device. The Aura hardware will be available this fall from foneGEAR for between $59 and $79. I don't know yet how well it works, but I ordered two on the spot. Aura sales VP Dan Cui showed me how they work.

A better portable printer?

Need hard copy from your laptop or PDA? Brother International has a new Bluetooth-enabled MPrint Micro Printer. It's small and sleek and doesn't even really look like a printer. But it puts out high-quality images on paper fed out of a cassette. Pair it with a Bluetooth handheld, and it could be all you need for your mobile office.

XP PC that's truck-tough

Construction workers, warehouse workers, and infantry soldiers use PCs, too. But they need portable PCs that will withstand the worst. (So do certain laptop users who inadvertently leave their systems on top of cabs.) A company named Xybernaut makes computers that can be dropped, banged, or otherwise manhandled and was at the show to debut its ruggedized Atigo T "Webpad," its first system with embedded Windows XP inside. Along with being tough (I had fun dropping one on the floor), it provides a familiar interface for users and a platform upon which businesses can port existing apps. The company's chief strategy officer, Dewayne Adams, showed me how tough the Atigo T is, and why.

Faster typing on a tiny device

The QWERTY keyboard was made for use with 10 fingers, not one digit or a single stylus. That's why hunting and pecking on those tiny little keys on a Palm or Pocket PC is one big pain. A possible solution: A company called ExIdeas has reconceived the keyboard into a configuration of nine large pads. It looks odd. It feels strange. But, within minutes, ExIdeas CEO Saied Nesbat had me knocking out full sentences far faster than I could ever hope to with a phone keypad, a thumb board, or one of those itsy-bitsy, teeny-weeny QWERTY keyboards that are attached to PDAs today.

We'll no doubt test and review many of these products when they finally hit the market. You can expect to hear and read more about most of them in the coming months. In the meantime, let me know what you think.

Source: http://www.zdnet.com/

Making legal services affordable through Smart system

By Bob C. Navarro

HIS LIFE has never been the same since he opened his doors to OFWs in the United Arab Emirates while serving his term as ambassador to the oil-rich Middle Eastern country.

"My constituents were all free to call me anytime they wanted," said former Ambassador Roy Villareal Seneres and now chair of the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC). "In fact, I got many calls from my constituents, requesting me to be their phone pal."

A diplomat, lawyer, and labor relations expert, Seneres was catapulted to national fame when he responded to the case of Sarah Balabagan, the teenage Muslim girl who killed her Arab employer in defense of her honor. Seneres' tact and persuasive stance helped save Sarah from death by beheading.

Seneres went on DZEZ radio and hosted a program called "Itanong mo kay Amba" after his diplomatic career came to a close. "Amba" is short for ambassador and was his nickname in the UAE.

"I would get calls from distressed housewives whose husbands have stopped giving them support, fathers concerned about the welfare of their daughters abroad, or family heads with missing siblings," Seneres said. "In the local workplace, women workers would call and report acts of sexual harassment committed by their supervisors or problems regarding their SSS benefits."

Among the local labor cases that he vividly remembers was that of a salesgirl in a mall who was shouted at and slapped by a matronly customer who was returning a defective item she bought in one of the mall's stores. The matron alleged the salesgirl was not giving her due attention.

Seneres slapped a case of slander by deed on the matron who, wary of her reputation, opted for an out-of-court settlement and paid the salesgirl P50,000.

One day, while on board DZEZ, Seneres gave his cell phone number to a woman caller who needed immediate help. From that day on, he started receiving a flood of queries from texters.

Realizing that the Philippines was the texting capital of the world, Seneres thought of harnessing the power of the cell phone to broaden his reach. He decided to tap Smart Telecommunications, which got interested in his cause and immediately designed a public service system called Text Amba at P2.50 per access.

With the help of his lawyer friends, Seneres made an inventory of the most commonly asked questions of people in need of legal assistance. These were fed to a computer, which can electronically respond to texters' questions.

If the question could not be answered by the prepared or "canned" answers, the message sender is referred to a battery of lawyers for an interactive, real-time discussion of the legal problem. If the texter has a complicated legal problem, he or she would then be advised to consult a lawyer of his or her choice, or call a certain number for consultation with a law firm.

Text Amba is now in place, starting off with the "Daily Legal Tips" service. A Smart subscriber who wants to be guided on a daily basis in various fields of law such as labor, criminal, civil, business and OFW matters simply have to type Amba On and send to 332. He or she would already begin to receive the daily advice.

Text Amba has basically two other types of services. The "Query and Answer" service or the Amba Ask feature is where a Smart subscriber types a question on his cell phone pertaining to the fields of law and sends it to 332. If the question involves a complicated legal matter, the question is referred to a live lawyer online for a real-time text chat. If the problem entails more than three questions, or is complicated, the texter is advised to consult a lawyer of his or her choice. This service will come soon after the "Daily Legal Tips" has been determined to be running perfectly.

Likewise planned is a system wherein one can register for a regular text chat with a live attorney on real-time basis by typing Amba Chat and sending it to 332. Finally, a Smart subscriber who wants to have general information about Txt Amba service may type Amba Help and send to 332 for instructions.

Seneres and his lawyer aides are anticipating a conservative estimate of P50,000 queries per week. "If the legal service becomes a household word, the number of texters may jump to more than 10,000 per day," he said.

A takeoff from his radio and TV public service programs, Seneres is optimistic Text Amba will be a boon to thousands of Filipinos who cannot afford to hire lawyers for advice.

"It also a venue for me and my colleagues to sharpen our legal expertise because of the tremendous effort we would exert in researching the cases involved to meet the needs of the masses," he concluded.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALIZZA BUTIONG

Broadband Philippines launches e-BOD

IN LINE with its continuous upgrading of services, Broadband Philippines introduced last week its enhanced bandwidth on demand or e-BOD service.

e-BOD is a new service that allows Broadband Philippines' corporate subscribers to increase speed or bandwidth for a temporary duration on demand or scheduled times and dates covering both local and international streams.

This feature is possible only through Broadband Philippines since its network has a unique configuration of a full end-to-end (customer to Internet) IP based system, a software base that enables activation in a few hours.

This service can be used for video conferencing, large file transfer (particularly those in animations, creative advertising works), multimedia (such as audio and video streaming and online presentations) and data processing to name a few applications.

Inquiries about the new service are entertained at 913-6868.

Travel and text with Philtranco

PHILTRANCO recently launched its SMS (short messaging service) Inquiry Service, which aims to provide the riding public the convenience of accessing travel-related information through a mobile phone.

Philtranco's SMS Inquiry Service can provide information about its bus schedule, ticket reservation, route and travel fare. Just type PTRANCO(space)HELP and send to 211 for Smart and 2333 for Globe subscribers and get a host of information on travel-related matters and instructions. As an added feature, passengers can also text in their complaints or suggestions via this service for quicker action from Philtranco's operations group.

Philtranco's partnerships with Globe and Smart aim to make its services within reach of its millions of passengers through text messaging.

Passengers can also use Philtranco's SMS Inquiry Service or call 853-3218 and 851-0974 to make inquiries on the newly opened Manila-Caticlan-Iloilo route of Philtranco, an affordable and alternative way to go to Kalibo and Boracay.

Martin to the Max

The king is very busy indeed. If Martin Nievera, the acknowledged Concert King of the Philippines, seems like he's everywhere these days, it's because he is. From another successful string of concerts at Onstage Greenbelt, to launching a new album, shooting a new commercial for the New SMART Buddy, and even opening his own website, this king isn't resting on his laurels.

As a follow up to last year's successful "Chasing Time" album, Martin recently released his 17th album, "Chasing Time II". Louie Ocampo, songfest winners Soc Villanueva and Arnel de Pano, Trina Belamide, and American R&B superstar Brian McKnight lent their creative voices to this new undertaking. The "Chasing Time II" album includes a bonus VCD featuring the complete video for "Buddy Language" featured prominently in Martin's latest ad for the New SMART Buddy.

Martin's new website (found at www.martinnievera.com.ph) was launched at the NBC Tent. With celebrities like Paolo Bediones, Vince Hizon and fiancée Patricia Bermudez in attendance, Martin treated everyone to a night of song and interactive fun. The new site features biography, latest news, complete discography, media, and will soon feature a chatroom for Martin fans to intermingle.

On top of all of these, Martin still has time to endorse the New SMART Buddy. The New SMART Buddy has the following features: instant access to STARTXT, the SMART Cinema Club, Pick-of-the-Week Logos and Ringtones; the world's first electronic load with SMART Buddy Load that lets you call and text for as low as P30.00. It also provides Nationwidest coverage & International Roaming capability with over 3,400 cellsites nationwide and over 250 International Roaming Partners in over 100 Destinations.

Even as Martin keeps himself constantly busy, entertaining remains his passion. He's all set to head for the U.S. for a six-month long concert tour with Pops Fernandez. Martin's mall tour will continue when he returns for a few weeks in November in select SM malls. SIM swap at those venues and get a free "Buddy Language" Special Edition VCD. As he tours abroad, you can bet that he'll be standing by what he's been stating recently, a belief in One World, One Language. A Buddy Language.

Martin Nievera invites you to do the Buddy Language and win SMART Buddy Special Edition VCDs, Nokia 3650s or a Nokia 7650 by downloading Buddy Language logos, tones, MMS wallpapers, screensavers, lyrics or the Karaoke service. To join type BUDDY and send to 299.

On top of all of these, Martin still has time to endorse the New SMART Buddy

The Concert King serenades the crowd during his website launch

You can win this special edition VCD whenever you do the Buddy Language

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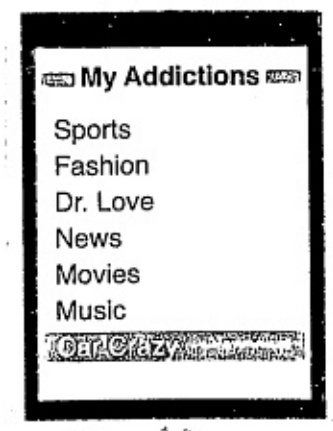

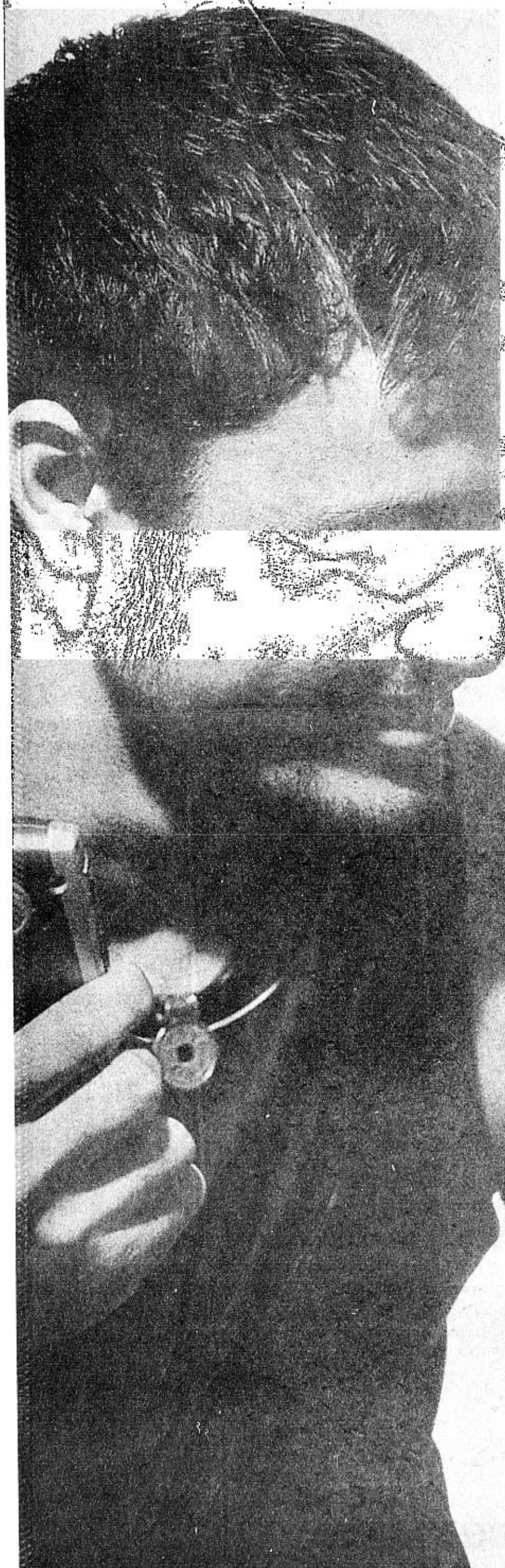

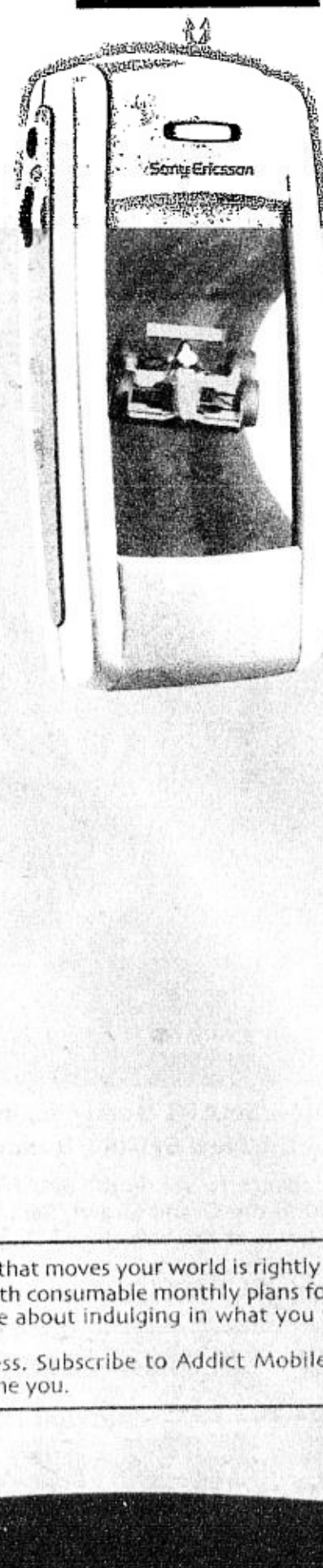

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For questions, comments or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, the SMART Corporate Hotline at *888, send a text message to 888 (P5.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at addictmobile@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

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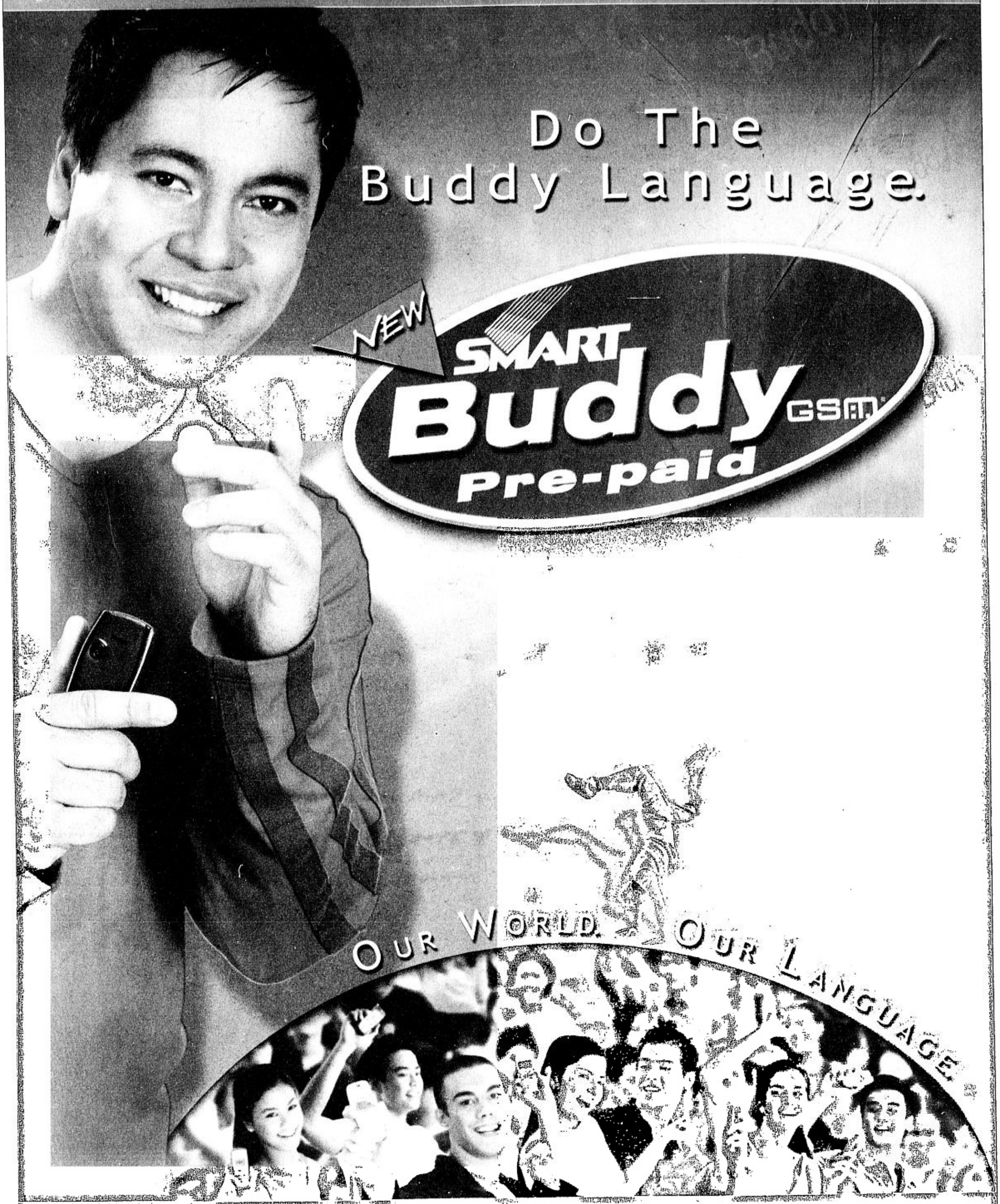

Join the New SMART Buddy bandwagon! The New SMART Buddy knows what you want and gives you a world of fun and exciting services! Be part of the New SMART Buddy world and do the Buddy Language! The Language of every buddy!

Plus, get a chance to win in the SMART Buddy Language Download Promo. Bring home SMART Buddy Special Edition VCDs daily, a Nokia 3650 weekly or a Nokia 7650 in the Grand Draw! Simply do the Buddy Language in your celfone by downloading logos, picture messages, wallpapers, screensavers, ringtones, polytones, lyrics or the karaoke version to earn raffle entries. The more you download, the more chances of winning!

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To get Buddy Language...	Key in... and send to 299.	RAFFLE ENTRIES
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* Available to all MMS-capable phones except SMART Amazing Phone.
** Contains lyrics. Available to all MMS-capable phones.
*** Initially available to Nokia 7650/3650 and Sony Ericsson P800 units.

The New SMART Buddy Special Editon VCD with "Buddy Language" and "Hanggang Ngayon" MTVs!

The "Buddy Language" song is also included in Martin Nievera's latest album, "Chasing Time II" which contains the carrier single, "Hanggang Ngayon".

SMART
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So, do the Buddy Language and win with the New SMART Buddy!

Powered by: WOLFPAC

Each message costs P2.50. Lyrics download costs P2.50 Monophonic ringtone costs P10.00. Karaoke download costs P30.00. Other downloads cost P15.00.
For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111 or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

Promo Period is from September 21 to October 18, 2003. See flyers for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3968, Series of 2003.

Junior Inquirer Special

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2003 ✦ 8 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 1, NUMBER 5

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Late But Great!

DANCE OF JOY. Janella, Ray, Dominique and Lizbeth give the victory sign after their win. RANDY HORMILLOSA

The School of St. Anthony wins top place in a metro science tilt

A TEAM that almost did not make it to the contest site has won the top prize in a Metro Manila science quiz bee.

Ray Chester Ambida, Dominique Amorsolo, Lizbeth Baldonado, and Janella Mae Salamania of the School of St. Anthony of Quezon City beat four other schools in the Blast Off! quiz bee organized by the Philippine Society of Youth Science Clubs.

The Philippine Cultural High School in Manila took second place and Bloomfield Academy of Las Piñas won third place.

"We were late," said Ray, 12 and Dominique, 11.

The team from the School of St. Anthony met at their campus to wait for their teachers so they could go to the contest together.

Late

But after waiting for an hour, the team decided to go ahead with their parents to the Ateneo de Manila University where the competition was to be held.

This made them very nervous because they were expected at the contest site in the morning. But after a while, they relaxed and just joked with each other.

"It was a good thing our part was still in the afternoon," 10-year-old Lizbeth said.

School of St. Anthony won the contest with a total of 205 points, followed by the Philippine Cultural High School with 195 points and Bloomfield Academy with 190.

It was quite a finish because if the last two questions had not been nullified, there would have been a different set of winners.

Disappointed

"We are disappointed," the team from Bloomfield Academy, Las Piñas admitted.

The Bloomfield team composed of sixth-graders Raezel Eleanor Castro, Jaime Antonio Abellar, John Jeffrey de la Paz, and Elijah Mappala, would have been in first place with a score of 220 points if the judges didn't nullify the last two questions.

While some teams were disappointed, the team from Philippine Cultural High School, Manila was relieved. Answering a replacement question correctly, they moved from what would have been a fourth place into second.

The team was composed of sixth-graders Clarisse Joy Ong, Diane Sophia Tan, Darien Merrill Chen and Alger Tang.

"Never lose hope," the four smiled.

"Think positive," chorused Clarisse and Sophia. Because you never know how things are going to work out in the end.

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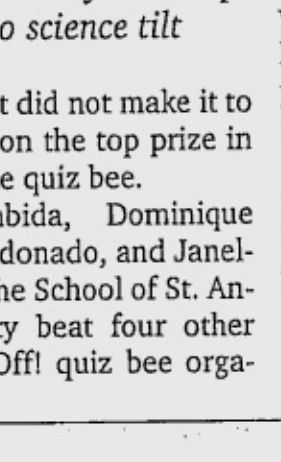

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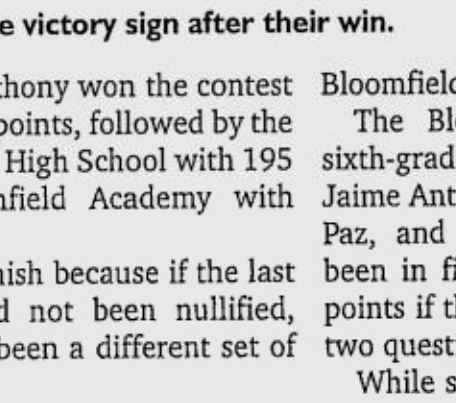

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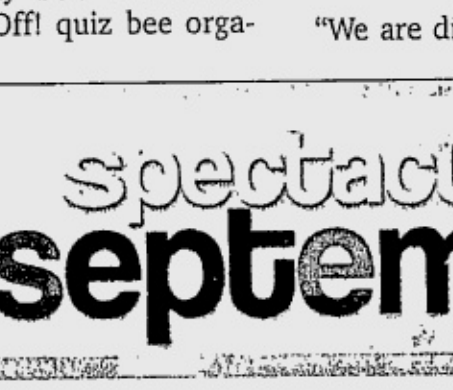

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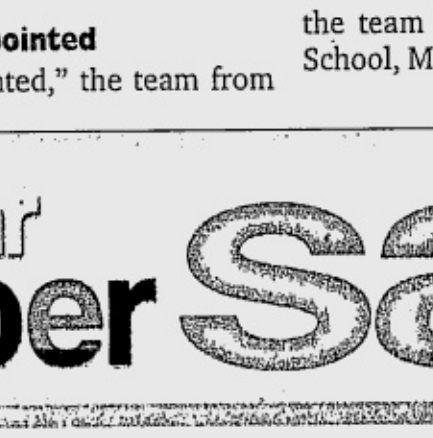

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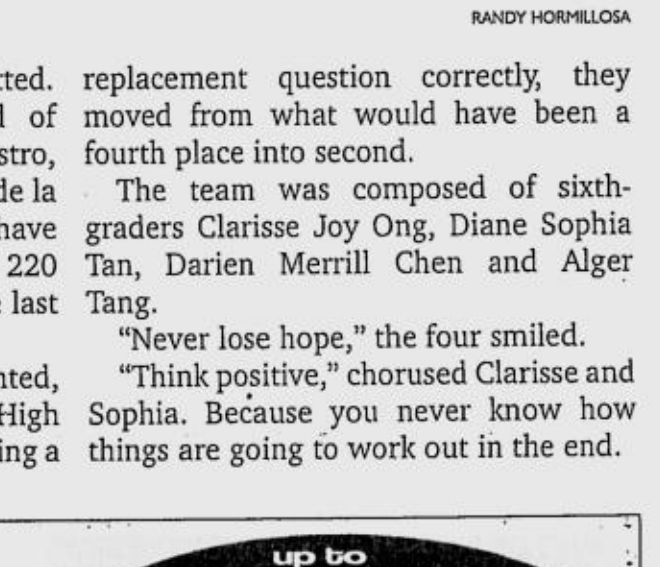

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2003 Best Children's Newspaper Awardee

School Break Ideas

DEAR Kids,
Can you smell that school break that's two weeks away? We can! We'll be on vacation too. I can already think of so many things I'd like to do then. Here are some ideas from us here in JUNIOR INQUIRER.

The Editor: Have a sleep-over with cousins or friends. Then, hide under the sheets and watch a scary movie.
The Writer: Turn a blanket into anything. Get friends to wrap an old blanket any which way around yourselves to turn into clothes. Weirdest idea wins!
The Editorial Assistant: Help with the household chores.
Iggy Ipis: Mystery buffs should read Agatha Christie's "Murder on the Orient Express. "If you're done with Harry Potter, look for Madeleine L'Engle's "A Wrinkle in Time."
Guyito: Say hello to all the carabaos you meet!
Atomo: Talk to your parents about segregating trash at home.
Weboy, D' Buddha Bear: Eat *champorado* and *tuyo* on a rainy day!
Shirley: Give all your pets—well, the furry ones—a brushing and a massage.
Mystery Duck: Stay away from the *balut* vendor! Especially if you're a duck!
Art from Lunch Box: Start a scrap book of your current school year.
Bernard from Lunch Box: Arf!

WE need writers

IF YOU'RE 10-12 years old and can write very good essays, news and feature stories, we would like to hear from you! Write a 200-300 word essay about your most memorable experience in school and send it to the editor at nvizcarra@inquirer.com.ph with your contact details.

JOURNAL PAGE

What Teachers Do

By Julien Dio
Miriam College Grade School
Quezon City

THAT'S right, "teachers." Does the word ring a bell? You would probably think of Araling Pilipino and Math homework, quizzes, class recitations and feel a chill in the spine.

But not in our school! Come to think of it, teachers are the ones who make our classes better, not just by making us learn more but by inspiring us to be the best we can be.

Some teachers may appear boring in class but when they're out of the room, they're the ones who are the most fun. Sometimes they get upset at us for being noisy and unruly. We can't blame them; as youngsters, we just can't control ourselves.

If you think your teacher lacks enthusiasm, then do not hesitate to approach her. Our History teacher, Ms Patapat, invites suggestions from us on how she can improve her teaching so we will be more interested in her class and lend her our ears when she's lecturing.

I remember some funny things our fifth-grade teachers did last year. One day, Ms Villafranca suddenly gave a big laugh while saying something about prefixes.

Another day, Mr. Casiño put away the bell which he used in prompting us to race to the blackboard to spell words from our English language vocabulary, so we were left standing in confusion! Another time, Ms Raymundo cracked jokes while lecturing us in Math.

In our school, our teachers play a big role. We don't think of them as bogeymen, the White Lady or somebody from our worst nightmares. We like to think of them as people who are like us, even though they are 15 or 20 years older. It just shows that one can grow old and still act young!

Some of our teachers tell us that they didn't become teachers because of the money. They simply say that they like being a teacher. They tell us that from where they stand, it feels a lot better than being the student in front of them.

Although we usually enjoy our class, we are naturally annoyed by the amount of homework given to us. A couple of weeks ago, one of our teachers was amazed at our progress in math and asked us "Would you still love me if I give homework?" "NO!!!", my classmates said in unison before giggling.

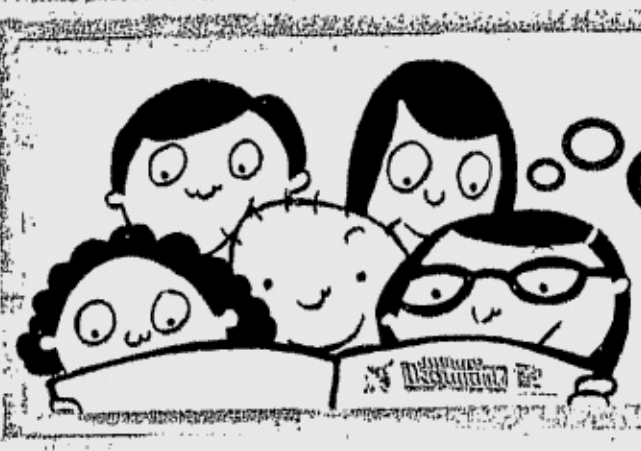
Our math teacher calmly said, "I'll still give you homework even if you hate me, because I love you. I want you to learn."

My classmates laughed again. I didn't know why they laughed; I thought it was nice of her to say that.

Now I have a better understanding why there are teachers in school. They are not here to ruin our lives; they are here to help us understand and to take the place of our parents when they can't be with us.

They are also here to help us with our problems and with our studies. Most of all, they are here to light our path when it is darkened by uncertainty, fear or ignorance. Our Moms are our sun, our Dads are the moon, and our teachers are the stars above.

Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!



Straight from JI Readers

You can reach us via e-mail! Our address is ji@inquirer.com.ph
Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and phone number.
Hope to hear from you soon!

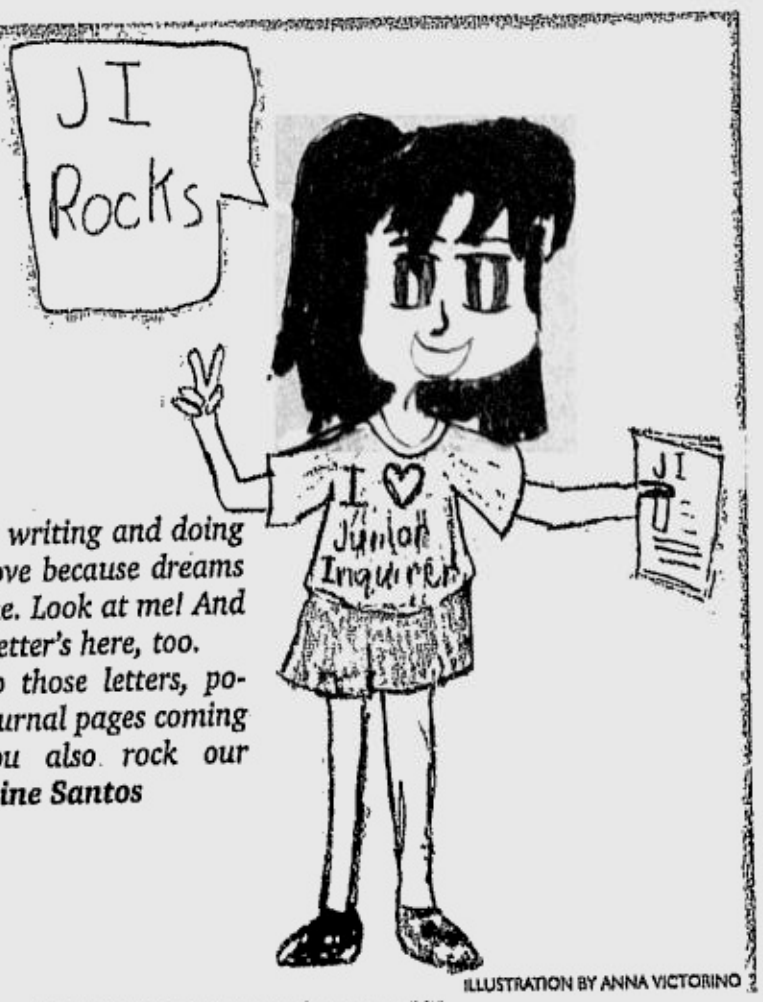


ILLUSTRATION BY ANNA VICTORINO

Junior Inquirer rules!

EARLY this school year, my teachers always distributed the JUNIOR INQUIRER in school. When I first read it, I was so amazed reading the articles. I like the comic strips, like "Shirley's Pets." It was so funny! Then I saw what the other kids said and wrote. I wanted to write also. I like the front page stories that Eline Santos writes. She is a very creative writer! I like reading "World Scope" because I like Geography very much and History, too. I like the *kalabaw* you put on the front page, it is funny, cute and creative. I like acting, writing poetry, drawing, sports and reading. I study in PAREF Woodrose School. I am 9 years old and in Grade 4. All I want to say is that JI is very creative, interesting, spontaneous and funny. In short, it rocks!—**ANNA VICTORINO**, Grade 4, PAREF Woodrose School, Muntinlupa City

Dear Anna,

Gosh! I'm blushing. Thanks for your sweet letter. We all appreciate being patted on the back. Just keep writing and doing what you love because dreams do come true. Look at me! And look, your letter's here, too.

*And keep those letters, poems, and journal pages coming because you also rock our world. —**Eline Santos***

Our Hungry Galaxy

OUR Milky Way galaxy (center/blue) is gobbling up its galactic neighbor, Sagittarius (red trail, from left to right). On Sept. 24, scientists offered documentary proof of this continuing cosmic cannibalism. On its way to oblivion, the dwarf Sagittarius—which is about 10,000 times the mass of the Milky Way—is getting stretched, torn apart and ultimately eaten, scientists at the University of Virginia and the University of Massachusetts reported. *Reuters*

Seventh's Tenth

A NEWLY born hippopotamus swims under the protection of its mother called "Seventh Daughter" at the Tianjin Zoo southeast of Beijng. "Seventh Daughter" has already given birth to 10 hippopotamuses since she arrived at the zoo from Africa. *Reuters*

Harry's School Break

PRINCE Harry reacts as he holds "Spike," the echidna, at Sydney's Taronga Zoo. Harry, Prince Charles' second son and third in line to the British throne, arrived in Australia for a three-month stay during his "gap year" before military college, planning to work during his trip as a jackaroo at cattle and sheep stations. *AFP*

More and more people read Cebu Daily News.

Be one of them.

sun glo
Juice Drinks

CREATE YOUR OWN
SUNGLO
CONTEST!

At the Sunglo Fun Day, Sept. 13, Robinson's Galleria, Ortigas, where the national contest winners were announced.

Junior INQUIRER Special

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2003

FOR or BY KIDS

Little Mischiefs

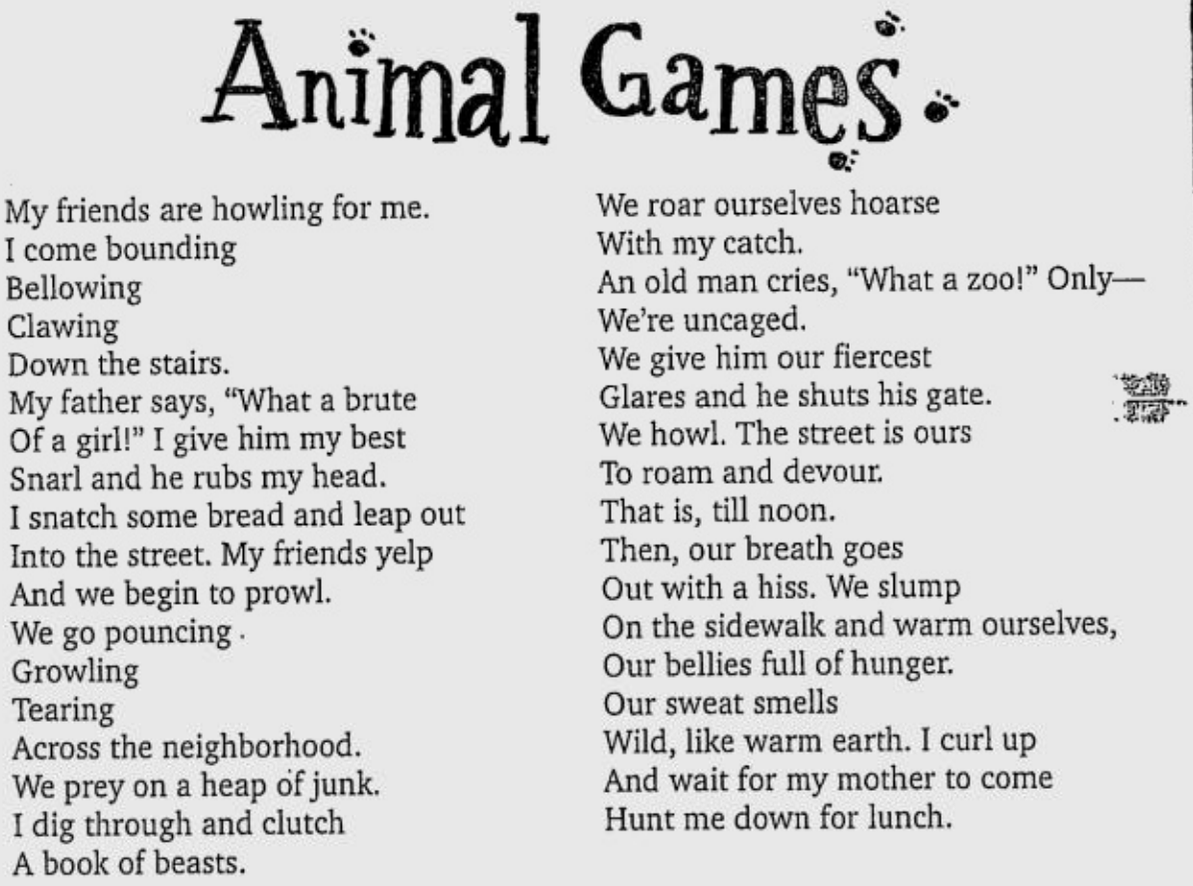
Poetry by Lara Saguisag
Art by Jason Moss

Storm signal

Thunder rolls and rumbles overhead.
Black clouds crowd the sky.
I clasp my hands and beg—
My homework's undone
My books are unread:
Please make it rain today!
I hear the first plunk hit the roof.
Then a steady beat, then an uproar
Of rain. My pulse dances
With the drops, beating yesyesyes.
The world is suddenly soaked gray—
It will dampen my teacher's spirits.
The canal outside must be swallowing
The street. The only schools, I hope,
Will be that of fish.
But the weatherman is unwelcome
Sunshine—"Just signal number 1, folks!
"Classes at all levels!" he beams.
I am left with a drenched wish.
I groan as I put on my uniform
And my dread. Mother shrugs
As she hands me an umbrella.
Now a storm is brewing
In my head.

Animal Games

My friends are howling for me.
I come bounding
Bellowing
Clawing
Down the stairs.
My father says, "What a brute
Of a girl!" I give him my best
Snarl and he rubs my head.
I snatch some bread and leap out
Into the street. My friends yelp
And we begin to prowl.
We go pouncing
Growling
Tearing
Across the neighborhood.
We prey on a heap of junk.
I dig through and clutch
A book of beasts.
We roar ourselves hoarse
With my catch.
An old man cries, "What a zoo!" Only—
We're uncaged.
We give him our fiercest
Glares and he shuts his gate.
We howl. The street is ours
To roam and devour.
That is, till noon.
Then, our breath goes
Out with a hiss. We slump
On the sidewalk and warm ourselves,
Our bellies full of hunger.
Our sweat smells
Wild, like warm earth. I curl up
And wait for my mother to come
Hunt me down for lunch.



The Opposite of Song

What is the opposite of song?
It's the clunk of a rusty gong.
It's the howl Mama does in the bath.
It's the shriek of a startled cat.
It's the cough of a beat-up Ford
It's the screech of chalk on a board.
It's warbling when you've had too much beer
It's something I don't want to hear.

Church

I sigh
And I scratch
Under the stiff collar of my dress
And I watch
The choirboy fall asleep
And I stand
When the lector says, "Let us all stand"
And I fan
Myself with a missalette
And I count
The people wearing blue
And I kneel
When the lector says, "Let us all kneel"
And I sneak
A peek at Mama's watch
And I whisper
My ABCs backwards, twice
And I sit
When the lector says, "Let us all sit"
And I squirm
On the hard wooden pew
And I giggle
As a fly lands on a bald head.
And I sit up
When Papa frowns at me.
Then I say "Amen."

Lara is the author of "There's a Dwende in My Brother's Soup" and a member of the Kuwentista ng mga Tsikiting (KUTING). Write her at saturdayfunmachine@yahoo.com

Jason is a painter, illustrator and editorial cartoonist. He is a member of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan (Ang InK).

Selecta

MOORE GAMES, MOORE FUN!

Something new from your favorite MOO!

From Selecta Moo, the milk that has "Moo-re" delicious flavors like Chocolate, Melon, Ube, Vanilla and Strawberry, now comes the newest craze to excite milk lovers like you!

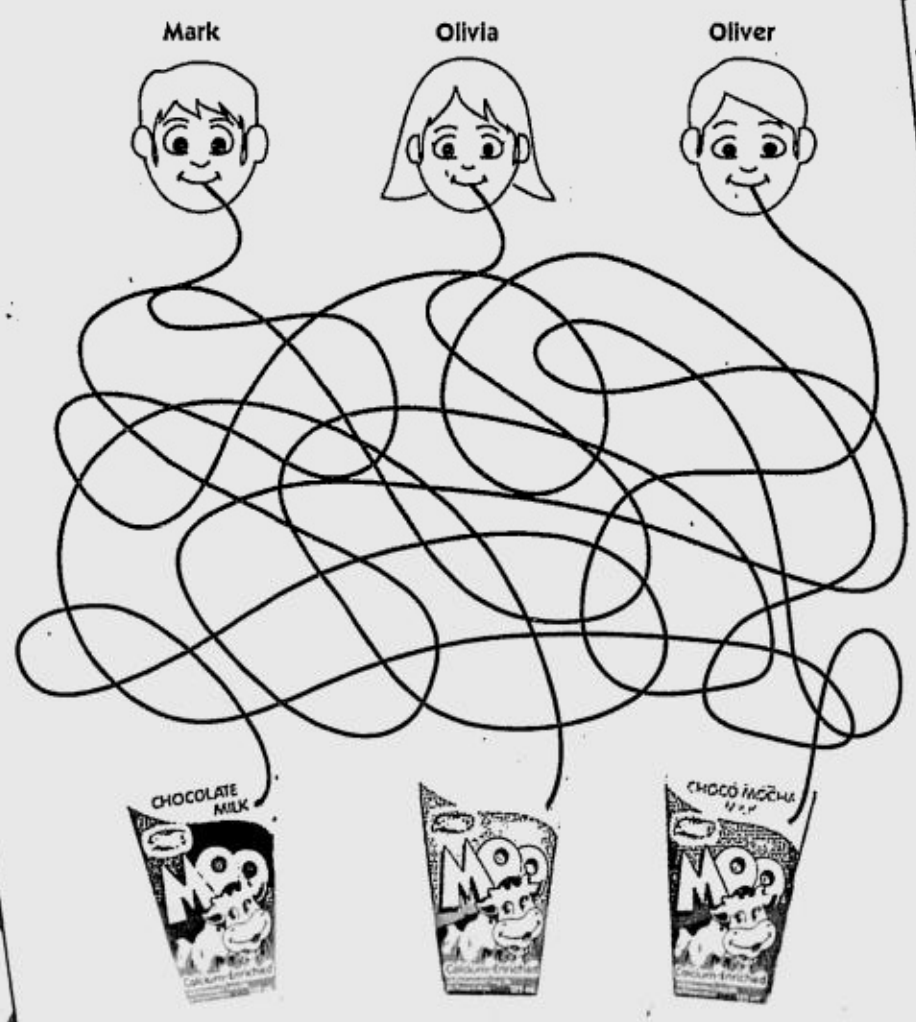
Introducing our CHOCO CRAZE COLLECTION:

With two new delicious treats: Choco Mocha Milk and Choco Caramel Milk! Made from the same chocolate goodness that we all love! Plus, it is calcium-enriched to make you healthier and stronger!

Drink your MOO!

i-match MOO

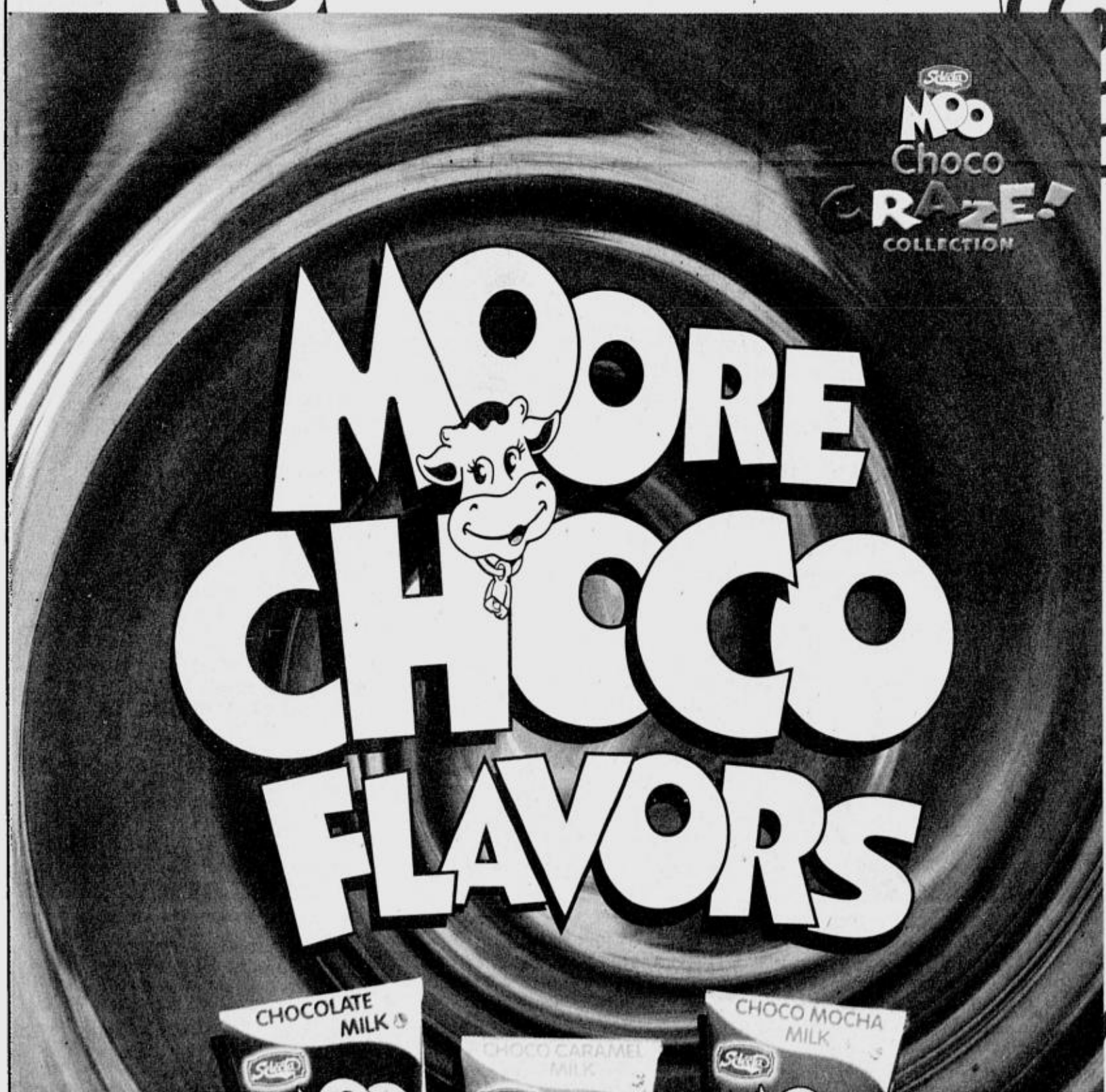
Guess which MOO goes to whom.



hanapin MOO

Can you spot the eight mystery spots on MOO?

Spot These Items:
Train, Chocolate Bar, Moo Wedge Pack, Heart, Duck, Balloon, Star, Helicopter



sagutan MOO

A cow produces ____ that we should drink everyday.

Find the letters to complete the sentence.

Raising the quality of food for the Filipino

45 years RFM

OUT THERE

By Christine A. Paita

Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax number is 897-4794, and our e-mail address is ji@inquirer.com.ph.

Contests

CHRISTMAS CHEER. Join Sacred Heart School's **Christmas card drawing contest** on Sept. 27 at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Kids ages 3 to 10 years old may join. For more info, call Eduworld at 813-0670, 813-4448 or 817-2279.

GSP SPIRIT. Join the Girl Scouts of the Philippines' **Christmas tree and lantern-making contests.** The tree and/or lantern should be made out of any indigenous material belonging to the troop's region. Entries should be submitted to the GSP National Headquarters at 901 Padre Faura, Ermita, Manila for public display from Nov. 30 to Dec. 30. Call 523-8331 to 42 for details.

STORYTELLERS' CONTEST. Alitaptap Storyteller's Club invites elementary students to join its 5th Annual Alitaptap **Storytelling Competition for Children** in October. Call Charlyn Chua at 366-2212 or 0917-8156032 for contest details.

GIFT OF HOPE. World Vision invites kids to join its Gift of Hope **On-the-Spot Art Contest** on the following dates: Sept. 30 at SM Southmall and Oct. 7 at SM Manila. The contest is open to students ages 6 to 12. For more info, call 927-0676 or 929-0902.

Events

BOOK & TOY FAIR. Come to Museo Pambata's **Book and Toy Fair** for the latest children's books and educational toys. Visit the fair on Oct. 17 and 18, Nov. 14 and 15, and Dec. 5, 6, 12 and 13, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Museo Pambata is located beside the US Embassy at Roxas Boulevard corner South Drive, Manila. For inquiries, please call 523-1797 or 98.

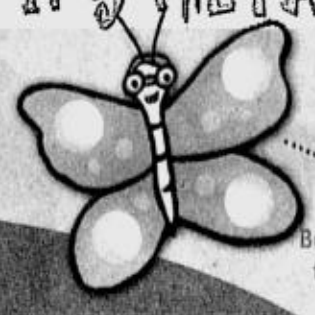
CELEBRATE YOUR PETS. Join in the celebration of **World Animal Month** and the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of the animals and the environment. Bring your pets for an animal blessing on the following dates: Oct. 4, 10 a.m. at Mary the Queen Parish courtyard in Greenhills; Oct. 4, 12 noon at Edsa Shrine; and Oct. 5, 12 noon at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish on Doña Juana Rodriguez, New Manila. The Philippine Animal Wel-

Out/ p. 8

THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

IT'S THE FASTEST INSECT IN THE WORLD...



☐ Is it the Bucktoothed Butterfly?

Butterflies can see only the colors red, green and yellow.

☐ Is it the Shy Ladybug?

A ladybug's spots fade as it grows older.

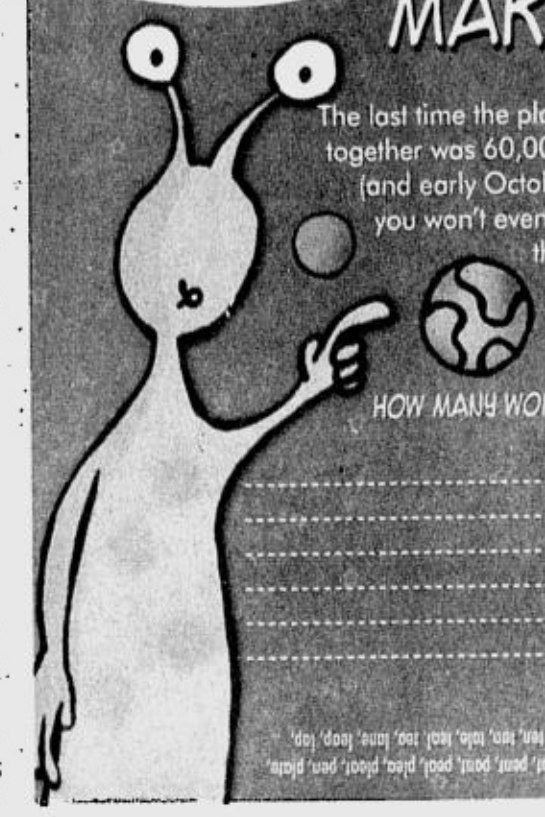
☐ Is it the Tropical Cockroach?

A cockroach has (at least) 18 knees.

☑ your answer!

ANSWER: The tropical cockroach, which can run over 5 kilometers an hour.

MARS MANIA



The last time the planets* Earth and Mars were this close together was 60,000 years ago! All through September (and early October) you can still see Mars at night, and you won't even need a telescope! It's reddish and bigger than the average star, so you can't miss it!

HOW MANY WORDS CAN YOU GET FROM "PLANET"? WE FOUND 44!

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

we found: plane, plan, plant, pate, pan, pane, pale, pet, peat, pent, pant, peal, plea, pleat, pen, plate, petal, platen, pelt, pat, pee, nap, nape, net, neat, tope, tap, ten, tan, tale, teat, tea, tane, teap, tap, taper, teen, tel, tant, ape, ate, ant, ante, ale

ANSWER: klite

WORDMATH

what's the mystery word?

(🔑-ey) + (🥛-ce) + (😁-eth) = ☐

Atomo & Weboy

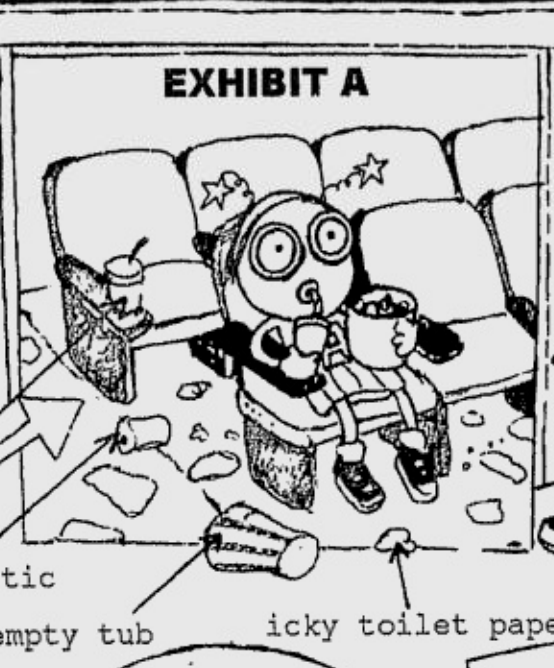
By Lyra Abueg Garcellano

BUDDHA BEAR

ATOMIC INVENTION OF THE MONTH:

Kids, check out EXHIBIT A. Yep. You've seen this happen a wazillion times. Just because there are people to clean up after you doesn't mean you should be a slob. It's up to you to remind grown-ups that littering isn't cool.

EXHIBIT A



Hey! I look good in that shot!

Yeah, but look at that filth!

Hello. This is a trash can. Contrary to popular belief, trash goes inside it, not around.

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

B _ B B _ _ G _ M

Clue: It rhymes with gubblebum.

And now a lovely poem to remember:

ROSES ARE RED
VIOLETS ARE BLUE
STINKY TRASH IS
EVERYWHERE
ALL AROUND YOU.

THE MOVIE SEAT OF ENVIRONMENTAL WRATH

Dump your trash on the floor and it gobbles you up!

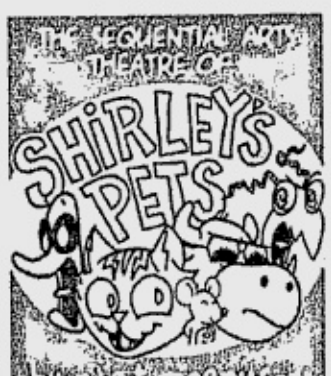
Call me the TRASHER GNASHER!

KID FOR A NON-STINKY NON-SLIMY PLANET!

Stinky stinks!

SHIRLEY'S PETS

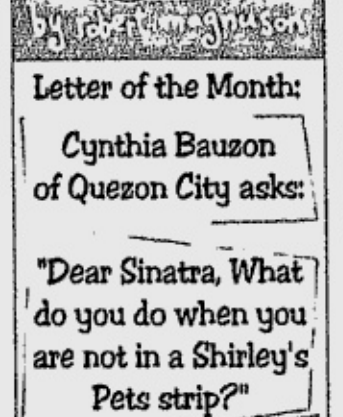
by Robert Gunnar Magnuson



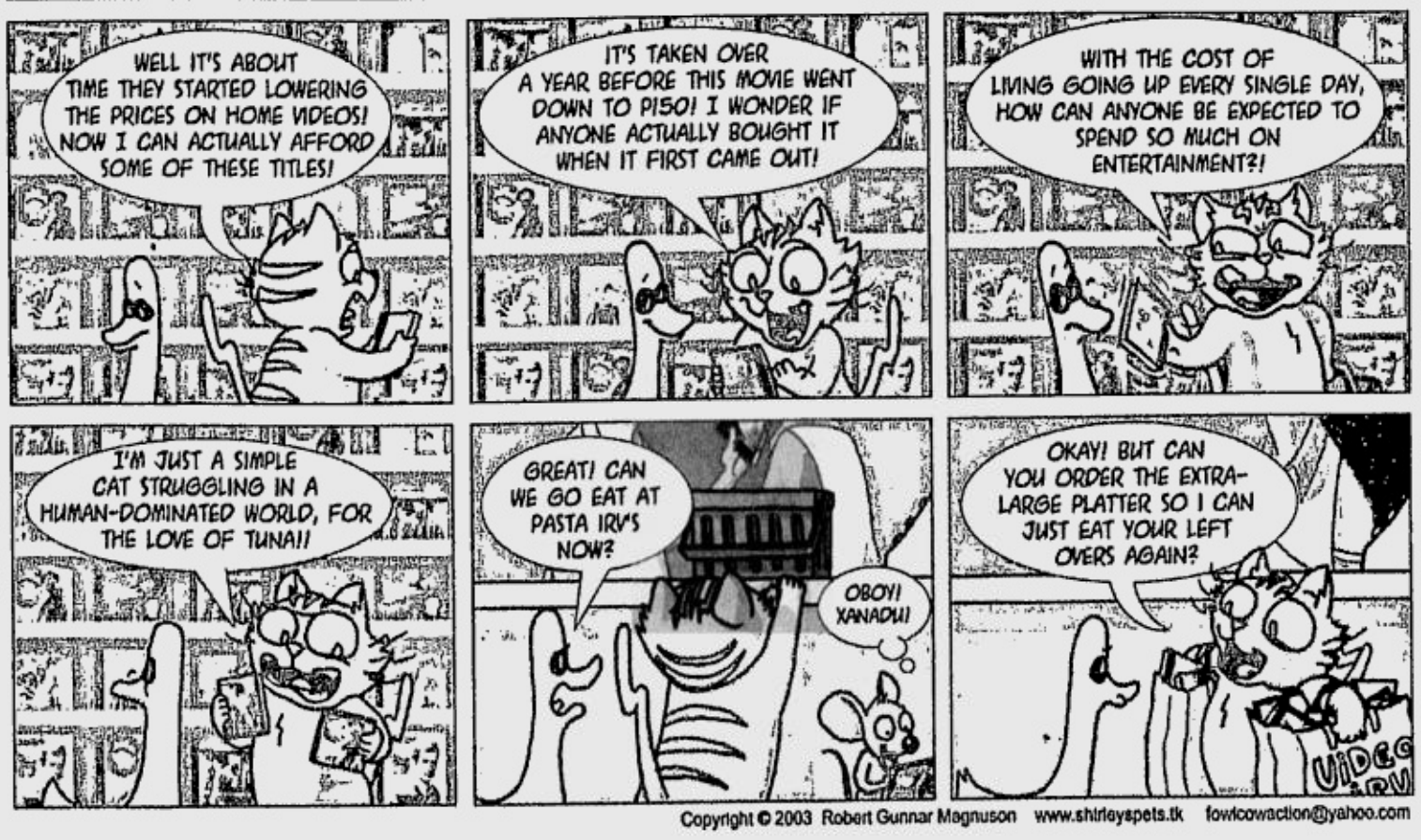
Letter of the Month:

Cynthia Bauzon of Quezon City asks:

"Dear Sinatra, What do you do when you are not in a Shirley's Pets strip?"



send mail to:
Shirley's Pets
P.O. Box 203 Q-Plaza
1900 Cainta Rizal
or email
fowlcowaction@yahoo.com



Copyright © 2003 Robert Gunnar Magnuson www.shirleyspets.tk fowlcowaction@yahoo.com

CY Major

A young musician on his strange name, his strange stories and his love of music

By Eline Santos

"'CY' is a Japanese syllable and it means 'again' in Japanese," explains 13-year-old Cy Tamura on the origin of his name. His mom adds that Cy is also the name of a jazz musician his Japanese dad liked.

"I think my father named me 'again' because it's like he wanted to live again, to see himself again," shares Cy, a freshman at the Philippine Science High School, Quezon City.

Cy may look like his dad but he is very much his own person.

"I don't think I'm exactly like him now," Cy continues, though he does share his father's and his namesake's liking for jazz.

Cy is in fact into all sorts of music. He even gives talks every now and then on the topic and takes up college-level music lessons over the weekends.

Part of his pastime is creating music just for its own sake.

"In making a song, it just comes and I start composing," he says. "When I play my own compositions, I forget them after, and I don't record them."

The last time he recorded his own songs and his own story, Cy came up with a musical called "The Magic Staff." This was when he was just 8 years old.

Strange Stories

Cy likes to make stories too, such as "The Evaporating Bunny."

He describes it as a strange story in a world where the lifespan of a bunny is 10 cycles (or 10 years). After which the bunnies "evaporate." However, one bunny (with the hard-to-say-name 'Sxrctfl') does not completely evaporate. He evaporates slowly.

"As he dissipates he could fly and go through walls, but he's not exactly a ghost. He goes around their world trying to explore it and he finds the meaning of death." Cy summarizes.

Cy says his stories are "too complicated for kids to read and too kiddie for adults to read."

His Old Soul

Maybe it's because he's a 48-year-old in a 13-year-old body?

"I feel like I've lived a million years," he says. But Cy quips that one advantage of actually being 13 is, "I don't have osteoporosis."

While he hesitates to describe himself, he concedes he is a comedian. He also believes that even if he were a 48-year-old inside, "You should always keep the kid inside—I am very childish many times."

And what would he like to tell kids who might look up to him?

"I want to tell them to find themselves because if you find yourself, you will find others."

CY makes up his own songs and sometimes gets invited to talk about music. JOHNNY VILLENA

Kids'r'rrific

Kid 'r'rrific
nomination form

I nominate:_____

Age: _____

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

_____

She/he lives at _____

_____

and studies at _____

_____

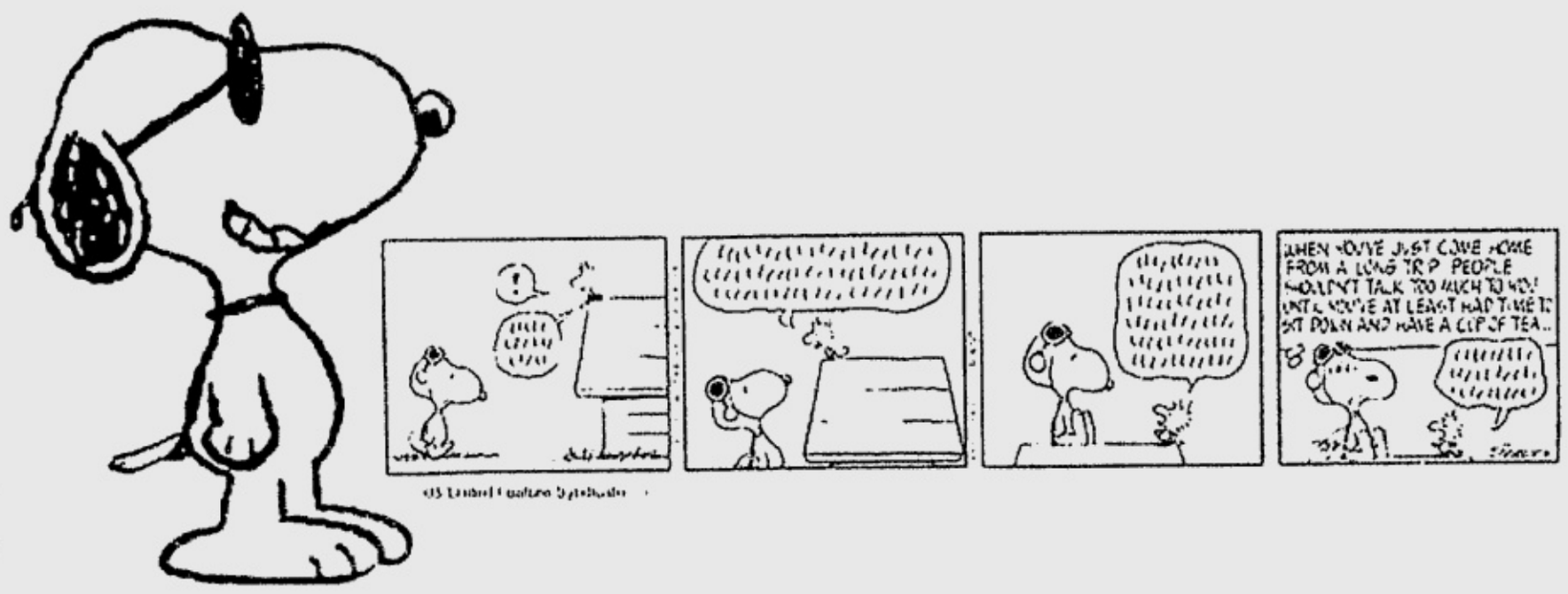
Her/his contact number is: _____

Sender's Name: _____

Sender's Age & School:_____

Sender's Address: _____

Sender's Contact No. _____



Connect-A-Snoopy Premiums

A Happy Meal Initiative

Out There

(from page 6)

fare Society also holds a fundraising Halloween pet parade at the Corinthian Gardens Clubhouse on Oct. 31, at 3 p.m. For more info, call PAWS at 475-1688.

KIDDIE ARTS FEST. It's a merry month for kids as the Children's **ArtsFest 2003** happens this September. The festival features workshops, exhibits, storytelling sessions, magic and shadow puppetry shows, and a live musical concert. A grand culminating activity will happen on Sept. 27, Saturday, from 3 to 8 p.m., at the Remedios Circle in Malate, Manila. For more info, call 523-1797.

TRICK OR TREAT! Go trick-or-treating with **Action Kidz** on Oct. 24 from 2-6 p.m at Discovery Centre. There will also be games, raffle draws, costume awards, and celebrity storytelling. For more info, call 636-0747.

GET SCIENTIFIC! Join friendly theme room guides at Museo Pambata as they demonstrate some **fun science experiments** on wind power on Sept. 28 at the Craft/Kalikasan Room at 2 p.m. For inquiries, call 523-01797 to 98 or send fax at 522-1246. Museo Pambata is located at Roxas Boulevard corner South Drive, Manila.

Cable Picks

SCARETOON. Cartoon Network presents **scary toons** this October. "The Grim Adventures of Billy and Mandy" is about two kids who befriend the Grim Reaper, while "Evil Con Carne" is about Hector whose body was destroyed in a freak accident. "Scaretoon" airs every Friday starting Oct. 3 at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Watch the Powerpuff Girls battle it out with the Sandman and the Amoeba Boys on Oct. 8 at 7 a.m.

TRICK OR SHRIEK. Catch **Halloween episodes** of "Casper," "Cow and Chicken," "The Mask," and "The Jetsons," plus a Scooby movie. Courage, the Cowardly Dog (who's quite used to shrieking) hosts this Cartoon Network Halloween Special on Oct. 31 from 8 to 11:30 p.m.

PLAY WITH ME SESAME. Hallmark Channel presents **"Play with me Sesame,"** a brand new interactive show for preschoolers, featuring creative and interactive segments. The show premieres on Oct. 1 at 10:30 a.m. and is hosted by Muppets Ernie, Bert, Grover and Prairie Dawn.

ASIAN LEGENDS. Korea and Singapore tell their legends through Disney's **"Legends of the Ring of Fire."** Catch "How Singapore Got Its Name" and "The Magic Snail" every Saturday and Sunday at 7:30 p.m. before "The Wonderful World of Disney" on Disney Channel.

Stuff

COOL PENS. Check out Bic's new colorful mechanical pencil, the **Bic Shimmers**. The pencil has an eraser and can hold up to three lead sticks. Bic Shimmers comes in red, blue, yellow, purple and lime. Available at National Book Store branches and other leading stores nationwide.

BUCKLES — BY DAVID GILBERT

GMA uses UN stage to send peace signals to MILF

Story Below, Col. 2

Kris inspires battered women to come out

By Norman Bordadora

KRIS Aquino's confession that she was a battered girlfriend of comedian and Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez has apparently given a lot of battered women courage to seek counseling.

The counseling hotline of the women's group Gabriela has been receiving more calls after Aquino made her admission in

KRIS/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

KENKOY

The first and longest-running Filipino cartoon strip which came out in 1929 has since become 'Da Pinoy Pop Icon'. On the eve of its 75th anniversary, Tony Velasquez's classic *ka-Kenkoy-an* comes back to life on the Inquirer pages starting October 10.

ABANGAN!

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
September 28, 2003 ★★ 108 pages / 12 sections / vol. 18 / no. 292 P15
website: www.inq7.net

Terror alert up at ports

Text message warns of plot to bomb ships in South

By the PDI Mindanao Bureau and Arlyn dela Cruz
Contributor

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) has raised the alert level at all Mindanao ports because of a supposed intelligence report indicating an alleged plot to bomb Manila-bound ships.

"The red alert here has never been lifted. Now it is heightened anew after an intelligence report about threats against one of the shipping lines that sails from Mindanao to Manila," Port Police First Class Manuel Sungcad yesterday told the INQUIRER.

The PPA ordered port officials in Mindanao to implement the heightened alert in the wake of a threat allegedly issued by Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani.

Sources from the PPA here said they were concerned about the sabotage of ships owned by WG&A, against which Janjalani had supposedly issued the threat.

Sungcad said the PPA was relying on the shipping lines' security measures to prevent any bomb attacks. "We just hope that the shipping lines would be very careful," he said.

Contacted by mobile phone yesterday in Manila, WG&A public relations and corporate communications manager Gina Virtusio said the company has been "beefing up security measures since time immemorial because safety and security are important to us."

"Our security measures, from any point to the destination, have always been in place," she said, adding that the company was exercising utmost diligence because all its vessels were International Ship Management (ISM) code-certified.

Asked if WG&A had lately received any intelligence report recommending heightened security, Virtusio said: "As of now I cannot make a comment on that."

TERROR/ A22

POPE John Paul II receives President Macapagal-Arroyo at the Vatican Saturday. The meeting at the Apostolic Palace, St. Peter's Basilica, lasted 20 minutes.

PCPO-MALACAÑANG

GMA uses UN to send peace signals to MILF

By Volt Contreras
in New York
and the PDI Mindanao Bureau

UNITED NATIONS (via PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday used the UN General Assembly as a stage for sending inviting signals to the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front to resume peace talks with her administration.

First, she gave world leaders a positive portrayal of the MILF as an adherent to the "UN prescription" that achieving peace was an indispensable condition for economic development.

Then she made special mention of Malaysia as a "prime mover" in the peace negotiations with the MILF—the only domestic concern specifically tackled in the 10-minute, well-applauded speech that she delivered at around 11 a.m. (New York time).

Ms Macapagal also said she would use her attendance at the Organization of the Islamic Conference summit in Kuala Lumpur next month to "advance the peace process in Mindanao and advance understanding between faiths."

The Philippines' application for observer status in the OIC "complements" her administration's peacemaking efforts with the MILF, she said.

The President is now in Rome for an audience with the Pope.

In earlier media interviews here, Ms Macapagal said the quest for peace and development in Mindanao mainly shaped the agenda of her two-day stay in New York for the UN 58th General Assembly.

Emerging from a meeting Thursday with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, for example, she said the UN leader had offered his help in advancing the peace process with the MILF.

In a subsequent meeting with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad, their discussions dwelled on the resumption of formal peace talks in October as well as the formation of a ceasefire monitoring team composed of a third set of Muslim states.

In Cotabato City, the MILF yesterday welcomed Annan's offer to help in the peace process as well as Mahathir's invi-

GMA/ A22

Ping not keen on Danding alliance

By Christine Avendaño
Juliet Labog-Javellana
Michael Lim Ubac
and Cynthia D. Balana

FORMER Sen. Ernesto Maceda's statements about a united opposition being led to victory in 2004 by either business tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco or movie star Fernando Poe Jr.—or even a possible team-up of the two—are raising the political temperature in Congress.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, an early presidential aspirant, warned that he and others in the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino would block any move to enter into an alliance with Cojuangco's Nationalist People's Coalition unless the latter party cuts its ties with the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats.

"The sentiment of majority of the members of the LDP is to support my suggestion that we wait for the NPC to show that it would be an opposition party," said Lacson, who faces the prospect of being sidelined if the wealthy Cojuangco or the wildly popular Poe decide to enter the race.

Lacson's remarks came amid LDP president Edgardo Angara's moves to convene a "grand alliance" of opposition parties that would field a single presidential candidate in 2004.

Interviewed by mobile phone from Baguio, Angara predicted that there will be a major realignment of political forces in the next few weeks.

He said key opposition figures would be holding a series of meetings next week to firm up the "grand alliance."

Over at the Lakas-CMD camp, party leaders are said to be working on a possible team-up between President Macapa-

PING/ A8

From praying to spraying: Ex-nun UN's best farmer

PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—Her journey took her from the convent to the farm.

Ex-nun Virginia Munino of Tampakan, South Cotabato, has been named best female farmer of the year by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for turning her family's small piece of land into a productive enterprise teeming with vegetation.

Munino, 52, will be honored during the celebration of World Food Day in Bangkok on Oct. 16. She and other winners from the Asia-Pacific region will receive their awards from Princess Sirindhorn of Thailand, according to Hadji Sumail Sekak, director of the Department of Agriculture in Central Mindanao.

In 1998, the then Sister Virgie left the Oblates of Notre Dame, a congregation engaged in apostolic work including education, to tend the family farm then planted with coconuts in Barangay Sta. Cruz in Tampakan.

Delia Tikan, information chief of DA-Central Mindanao, quoted Munino as saying that she made the momentous decision to leave the convent because there was no one else to look after the small piece of land that was her family's sole means of livelihood.

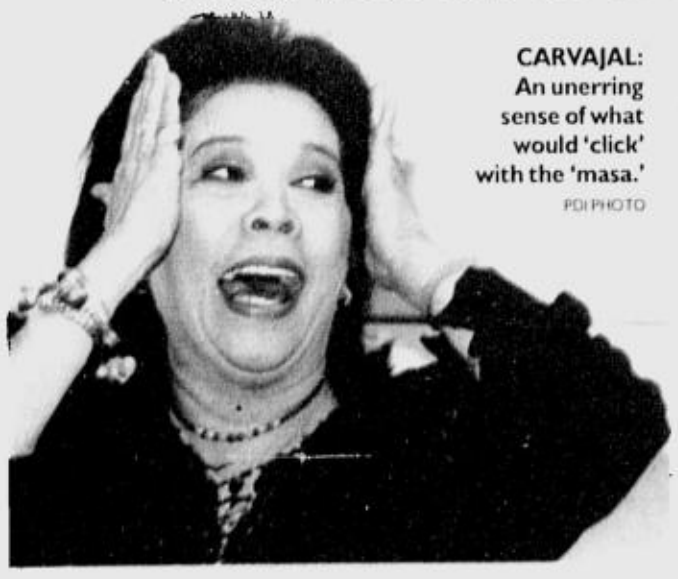
Munino's parents were aging and were no longer up to the task of cultivating the farm, Tikan said.

Now, under Munino's persevering hands, the farm is reaping a gross production of P182,000.

Sekak said that aside from an FAO trophy and a plaque of appreciation that Munino would be bringing home as a matter of "national pride," she would receive a cash prize. The FAO will also shoulder her round-trip tick-

FROM PRAYING/ A9

How Ate Luds became Inday Badiday



CARVAJAL: An unerring sense of what would 'click' with the 'masa.'

PDI PHOTO

By Rina Jimenez-David

FAMILY lore has it that it was "Ate" Luds' mother, our Tita Lala, who baptized her with the nickname "Inday Badiday." Wondering what name she should use on air after she was given her own radio show, Lourdes was astounded when her mother pointed to a member of the household: "Why not Inday Badiday?" she said.

And so Lourdes Jimenez Carvajal became Inday Badiday to the world at large. Implicit in this story, of course, is that Lourdes could not use her "real" name as she was entering a world alien and strange to the rest of the clan. True, her older sister Letty was a journalist, too, but Inday's brand of journalism strayed too much into entertainment as to be entirely "legit." This smacked too much of show biz for a clan whose members had distinguished themselves in public service, diplomacy, military service, the legal arena, education and, of course, the media.

HOW/ A9

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/09/28/03

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Metro Manila	Mostly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

GMA in Rome, meets ailing Pope

ROME—President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday had a 20-minute private audience with Pope John Paul II at the Apostolic Palace two hours after her arrival here from New York where she addressed the United Nations General Assembly.

Ms Macapagal and her entourage arrived here at 9:27 a.m. yesterday (3:27 p.m. Manila time) on the second leg of her five-day trip to the United States and Europe.

Pope John Paul II met with Ms Macapagal before celebrating a Mass in memory of his two predecessors as he began a demanding autumn schedule.

The Pope appeared alert and relatively strong at the meeting with Ms Macapagal, days after ill health had led him to skip his weekly general audience. Vatican officials helped John Paul to his feet, after which he shook the President's hand and then returned to his seat for the remainder of the meeting.

Held upright by the Pope's private secretary Stanislaw Dziwisz and another prelate, the Pope spent about 10 minutes in private conversation with Ms Macapagal. He then met her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, and her son, daughter-in-law and infant granddaughter, whom the Pope caressed and blessed.

Ms Macapagal presented the Pope with a 17th-century statue of the Virgin Mary made by Philippine artisans, and the Pope gave the President a contemporary bronze statue of the Virgin.

The Mass in honor of Popes John Paul I and Paul VI was the pontiff's first appearance since he was forced to cancel his weekly audience because of what the Vatican described as intestinal ailments.

After her audience with the Pope, the President met with His Eminence Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Vatican's secretary of state.

Ms Macapagal then attended a luncheon tendered in her honor by Philippine Ambassador to the Vatican Francisco Alba.

In the afternoon, she had an interview with the Centro Televisivo Vaticano and later by members of the Philippine- and Rome-based media.

Prior to her departure for Paris, Ms Macapagal will attend a Mass today with a delegation of bishops from the Philippines at the Pontificio Colegio Filipino. The President will then meet with members of the local Filipino community at the Sala Esperanza Ergife Palace Hotel.

On his first full day back at his Vatican apartment following a three-month summer vacation in the hills outside Rome, the Pope earlier met with a group of Philippine bishops in preparation for the audience with Ms Macapagal.

Despite persistent rumors he might resign, the Pope's schedule is busy for weeks ahead.

Looking pale, exhausted and dribbling slightly, he instead delivered his weekly blessing by radio on Wednesday touching off a wave of concern about the health of the 83-year-old Pope.

John Paul suffers from the impact of a 1981 assassination attempt, Parkinson's disease and crippling hip and knee problems that keep Vatican technicians busy thinking up new ways of keeping him mobile.

Vatican reports said he would summon a meeting today of cardinals known as a consistory, at which new members would be admitted into the scarlet-robed college. *AFP, AP*

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo kisses Pope John Paul II's ring at the start of their 20-minute meeting yesterday. PCPO-MALACANANG

Ignore 'rumors' on RP, Gloria tells US traders

By Volt Contreras

NEW YORK (via PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday urged American businessmen to ignore political "rumors" in making decisions to invest in the Philippines.

"The rumor mill is in full gear in an election season. It is the political equivalent of the typhoon season," she told members of the Asia Society Council on Foreign Relations and the US-Asean Business Council.

The United States is the country's second biggest source of foreign investments. As of the first half of this year, Japan was the Philippines top foreign investor. Both the US and Japan are also the country's major trading partners.

Ms Macapagal's speaking engagement—attended by former US Ambassadors to the Philippines Richard Holbrook and Frank Wisner—was one of the events on the sidelines of her two-day trip to New York to attend the 58th General Assembly of the United Nations.

In her speech, Ms Macapagal assured US businessmen that the country's economic fundamentals remained sound and the political situation stable despite recent moves to destabilize her administration, referring to the failed July 27 Oakwood mutiny.

"That the young officers' rebellion was resolved in less than 24 hours without bloodshed was a clear sign of "the underlying strength of the republic and that I am in full control," she said.

Ms Macapagal stressed that her administration has undertaken reforms to promote good governance, boost revenue collection and address the ballooning budget deficit, which have been a constant concern of prospective foreign investors.

But US businessmen also want the Philippine government to ease restrictions on foreign ownership to finally allow the entry of interested firms into the country and thus increase direct foreign investments.

The US-Asean Business Council, an American private business organization focusing on promoting trade and investment between the US and Asean countries, earlier disclosed that some US firms had expressed interest in locating to the Philippines but policy restrictions made them reluctant to do so.

"Many companies are willing to form joint ventures (with Filipino firms), but there are also those who want to have full ownership due to the sensitivity of their businesses," said Robert Driscoll, chair of the council's US-Philippines Business Committee, in a briefing this month with reporters.

Driscoll said the group did not intend to impose on the Philippine government to change its Constitution and scrap the provision requiring a maximum of 40 percent ownership of foreigners on companies located here.

Nonetheless, he said, the group hoped the Philippines could find a way to address the foreign ownership issue.

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The following accounts are covered by the RRRP:
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b. Deed of Conditional Sale (DCS) accounts;
c. Bahay Ko (BKP) accounts, and
d Lease Purchase Accounts of individual members

The following accounts are not covered by the RRRP:
a. Fully paid IREL, DCS and BKP accounts
b DCS accounts resulting from sale of acquired assets and
c. Ex-redemptioner/buy-back accounts

Terms and Conditions on RRRP
Condonation of Penalties and Surcharges
a. For IREL and DCS/Lease Purchase Accounts. All penalties and surcharges previously imposed shall be condoned
b. For BKP Accounts. All surcharges previously imposed shall be condoned. Penalties, which is in the form of additional interest and integrated therein shall not be condoned
c. For previously Restructured Accounts. All penalties and surcharges previously imposed from the date of last restructuring shall be condoned except RA 8501

Minimum Payment Requirement
a. Up-to-date accounts and Non-Delinquent Accounts. No downpayment required. If the borrower wants to reduce the balance to further lower the interest rate payment must be made within the month of application
b. Accounts in Default. At least ten percent (10%) of the outstanding balance net of penalties and surcharges which must be made within the month of application

In the event the 10% downpayment is not completed within the month of application, said payment shall be applied as regular payment and application shall be cancelled. In the event borrower re-applies, he will be required to put up another 10% of the outstanding balance net of penalties and surcharges as of the month of application

Restructured Balance.
The amount to be restructured shall be the outstanding balance net of penalties/surcharges condoned and downpayment, if any

Effectivity Date of Restructured Account.
a. Up-to-date Accounts and Non-delinquent Accounts. The first amortization shall be due on the month of application.
b. Accounts in Default. The first amortization shall be due at the end of the month following the month of application

Terms of Payment
The borrower shall have the following options for the term of payment.
a Remaining term
b. Any year from one to fifteen as may be opted by the borrower which ever is longer.

Interest Rate

For members	Interest Rate
P 180 000 00 and below	5%
P 180,000 01 to P300,000	10%
P 300 000 and above	12%
For non-members	
above rates	+2%

Repayment Scheme.
a. For active members as principal borrower salary deduction. Any deficiency shall be covered by salary deduction from a co-maker(s) and/or issuance of twelve post dated checks covering the deficiency for the succeeding twelve months
b. For non-members as principal borrower and co-maker issuance of post dated checks
Twelve post dated checks shall be prepared initially. Every anniversary of the loan, the borrower shall be required to submit the next twelve checks for the

modification for the following year.

Sales/Mortgage Redemption Insurance (SRI/MRI)
a. SRI-MRI coverage(on original loan) shall be at the option of awardee/buyer of rights subject to all existing Optional Life Insurance policies
b. Restructured accounts which SRI/MRI did not lapse shall remain in force but only for the amount corresponding to the present value of the original loan. The difference between the restructured amount and present value may be insured but shall be subject to whatever actuarial adjustment there might be

Penalties and Surcharges
Any unpaid amortization during the term of the restructured account shall be charged a penalty computed monthly using the table and as illustrated below

Principal Loan	Penalty Rate
P180 000 and below	1/
P180,001 to P300,000	2/
Above P300,000	2/

1/ (0.5% x total arrearages) + (0.0[illegible] x principal balance)
2/ [illegible]

Processing Fee
Processing fee shall be deducted from the approved loan each account availing of this program as follows
a Restructuring P500.00 only
b Subrogation Fee one half percent (1/2%) of the principal loan

Subrogation of Rights
Applications for subrogation/transfer of rights shall be processed and approved subject to the following requirements
1. Submission of the following
Deed of Transfer of Rights
Special Power of Attorney
Multiple subrogation/ transfer maybe allowed provided that all the corresponding contracts and other documentary requirements are presented to the GSIS for authentication
Extra-judicial settlement and partition if sale is after death of original borrower to be published once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks and an Affidavit of Publication
Authentication of legal documents if notarized abroad
2. The terms and conditions as described above
3. Interest rates shall be as stated above

Restructuring Agreement
The restructured account shall be governed by a Supplemental Agreement embodying the terms and conditions of this program. The provisions of the original contract shall remain in full force except as amended herein

Application Requirements
Application shall be accomplished and signed by any of the following
a Principal borrower/ awardee (including the co-makers if any)
Buyer of Rights/transferee
Any duly authorized representative of the above
2. Latest payslip principal borrower/ awardee/co-maker and or Buyer of rights.
3. Valid Identification Card
Passport / Driver's License
SSS / Company ID
Voter's ID / Senior Citizen's ID
Others as may be determined by the GSIS
4. Commitment Letter to pay either by salary deduction/ issuance of post-dated checks or combination

Applications with incomplete requirements shall not be accepted.

For further inquiries, please contact telephone numbers 8916150 or 891-6161 local 4335, 4226, 4229, 4030 or visit our website @ www.gsis.gov.ph or the nearest GSIS Branch Office.

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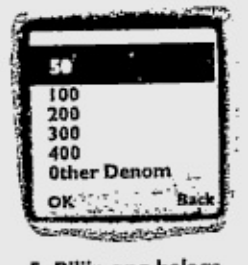
2. Pumunta sa TOUCH MOBILE MENU at i-click ang AUTOLOAD MAX.

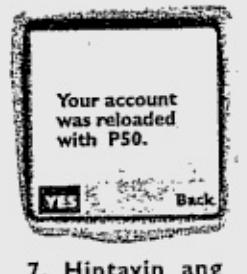
3. I-click ang RELOAD, press OK.

4. Ipasok ang CUSTOMER CELLPHONE NO., press OK.

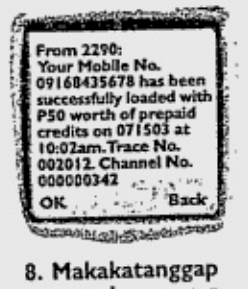


5. Piliin ang halaga na gustong Load, press OK.

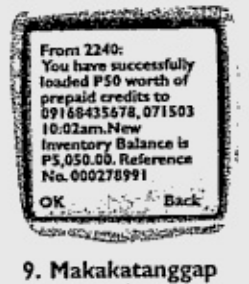
6. Ipasok ang iyong 6-10 DIGIT PIN, press OK.



7. Hintayin ang confirmation message. Kung correct, press YES.



8. Makakatanggap agad ang subscriber ng SMS para ma-confirm ang pagre-reload.



9. Makakatanggap ka rin ng parehong SMS.

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Military, police brass apprise Guingona of security situation

VICE President Teofisto Guingona Jr. yesterday paid a visit to the main camps of the military and the police in Quezon City for a briefing on, among other things, the country's security situation.

Armed Forces of the Philippines' chief of staff Gen. Narciso Abaya and Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane separately assured Guingona that the peace and order situation was "normal and the country was relatively tranquil."

President Macapagal-Arroyo had designated Guingona the government caretaker prior to her five-day working visit to the United States, Italy and France.

Tranquility

"The situation is normal. There's nothing to be alarmed about," Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay, deputy PNP chief for administration, said when asked to elaborate on the security briefing given the Vice President.

"We're experiencing a relatively tranquil environment. There's nothing to worry about. To quote General Abaya, the country is in safe hands," added Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, military information officer.

The military and the police remain on red and heightened alert, respectively, however, conditions enforced two days before Ms Macapagal's departure.

"We're just ready; we're being cautious. We're still on red alert status. We've got a battalion inside Camp Aguinaldo which can react anytime the situation warrants," Lucero told reporters.

Commenting on earlier reports that militant groups were planning to stage protest rallies while the President was abroad, he added: "We still have to find out if they're conducting rallies. We're ready if there is any rally."

Guingona, escorted by government security agents, arrived at military general headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo before 9 a.m. for the briefing by Abaya and the military top brass, according to military officials.

"He was just given a briefing on the security situation of the country, the current operations and the overall threat situation centering on the three main threat groups—the NPA, Abu Sayyaf and lawless elements, and the development on the ongoing peace talks with the MILF," Lucero said.

The military's ongoing manhunt for escaped Indonesian militant Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, in tandem with the police, was also tackled, he added.

Across the street

At around 10:30 a.m., Guingona left Camp Aguinaldo and proceeded to the police headquarters in Camp Crame, just across Edsa, to attend a briefing on the peace and order situation by Ebdane and other top police officials.

Guingona was also given an update on the internal security situation in Mindanao, the police's campaign vis-á-vis the fresh upsurge of kidnap-for-ransom incidents and bank robberies, among others.

"We also briefed him not only on the current criminal situation but also our fight against illegal drugs," Aglipay said at a press conference.

Aglipay said that Guingona was elated with the detailed action presented to him as to how "we will address the problems arising now."

Ebdane left for a very important mission out of town after briefing the Vice President.

VICE PRESIDENT Teofisto Guingona strides out of PNP headquarters after being apprised by police officials of the security situation which, judging by the smile on his face, can't be all that bad. JOAN BONDOC

13 killed, 60 injured in Bataan bus mishap

BALANGA CITY—At least 13 people were killed and more than 60 others were hurt early yesterday when two mini-buses collided and one of them then crashed into a waiting shed in Mariveles, Bataan.

Most of the victims were factory workers at the Bataan Economic Zone who were waiting for a ride at the shed in the Barangay Lucanin section of the Roman Superhighway at about 6:30 a.m.

The accident happened barely a week after 14 people were killed in a collision involving buses in Gattaran, Cagayan.

Senior Supt. Sahiron Salim, Bataan police director, said the Peñafrancia mini-bus left this city at 6 a.m. for Mariveles town, about 16 km away.

Salim said the bus was bumped by a Five Brothers mini-bus also bound for Mariveles. The vehicles were reportedly racing to get passengers.

After the smashup, the Peñafrancia bus fell into a 10-foot ravine, while the Five Brothers bus rammed the concrete shed.

Police reports identified the fatalities as Pablo Reno, driver of the Five Brothers bus, 50; Mary Obra, 22; her sister Christine, 20, and Jerwin Ferrer, 6, all of Baguio City; Mering Valencia, 50; Neneng Prejoles, 30; Benjamin Buensuceso, 74; Fernando Mercado, 35; Annabelle Bereno, Jennifer Bongco, Rigor Yulo, Helen Javier and Susan Enriquez.

Felipe Durante, the other driver, survived. He is in police custody.

According to reports reaching Central Luzon police headquarters in Pampanga, the Five Brothers bus also hit a tricycle parked near the shed. *Greg Refraccion and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Irate Etta belies compensation 'yarn'

By Cynthia D. Balana

AKBAYAN party-list Rep. Loretta Ann "Etta" Rosales and other victims of human rights violations during Ferdinand Marcos' regime will place their compensation from the late dictator's assets in a foundation for other victims who were not included in the class suit filed in Honolulu, Hawaii.

A furious Rosales made the disclosure as she protested the "false, malicious and distorted" news report and editorial published earlier in the INQUIRER about the compensation issue.

She said the newspaper had lambasted her for exploring the possibility of paying lawyers' fees to Bob Swift and Rod Domingo out of the $1.9 billion awarded to almost 10,000 martial law victims by a Honolulu court in 1995. This was "inaccurate," she said, noting that the articles came out while she was abroad.

The ruling 'still' awaits enforcement by local courts.

₱500,000 each

Each claimant would get as much as

ROSALES

₱500,000 should Congress pass the pending compensation law, Rosales said. The bill seeks to amend the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL), which mandates that all monies recovered from the Marcoses should go to the agrarian reform program.

Rosales, chair of the House committee on human rights which handled the proposed law, said House Bill No. 4535 has just been passed on second reading without amendments. But she conceded that it could stand improvement, as pointed out by many colleagues during the plenary debate.

Group resolution

In any case, she said, it was clear from the start that a portion of the Marcos wealth would be distributed to martial law victims through legislation.

As for the 1995 ruling, Rosales stressed, the Honolulu District Court was supposed to set the lawyers' fees, to ensure that the claimants were not shortchanged.

"I find it unfortunate that, without proper consultation, I was attacked for allegedly offering five percent of the claimants' (forthcoming) compensation to the lawyers," she said.

Rosales said it was Claimants 1081 as a group that came up with a resolution for members to give five percent, if they so desired, as a token of appreciation for the lawyers' hard work in winning the case.

But even if the claimants all agreed to the resolution, she said, there was still no money from which any portion could be deducted.

The INQUIRER editorial accusing her of proposing that the compensation package be shared by all victims of human rights violations, not just during the Marcos era, was "ridiculous," Rosales said.

No basis

She reminded her critics that the proposed $150 million compromise agreement between the Marcos estate and the victims, which never materialized, could never be the basis for exonerating the late dictator of criminal liability.

"Only the state and not any private group has the authority to exercise such power," she pointed out.

Rosales insisted that as a legislator, conflict of interest was never a problem for her.

"Unfortunately," she said, "I do not make it a habit to announce (all) my intentions, and for this I have been unfairly criticized."

DOJ cites Aussie help in Tan case

AUSTRALIA has acted "favorably" on a Philippine request to freeze the assets of fugitive businessman Dante Tan, Justice Undersecretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez said yesterday.

Gutierrez, however, declined to give further details on the action taken by Canberra on Tan's bank deposits, estimated to be worth almost US$500,000.

She said Australia had requested that the information be kept confidential, which is provided for under the the treaty that was used as the basis for the request.

The Philippine government made the request last July even as it continued to hunt the fugitive Chinese-Filipino who is facing charges of stock manipulation in local courts.

The Department of Foreign Affairs has cancelled Tan's Philippine passport but he is believed to be using two others—one Australian and the other Chinese.

Tan fled to Australia after he was charged in the biggest insider trading scandal in Philippine Stock Exchange history.

But he had to leave Australia in June in the midst of a political scandal after it was discovered that he had given illegal political contributions to the election campaign of Australian Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock in 2001.

Ruddock's ministry gave Tan his Australian citizenship in May 2002.

After he fled, it was discovered that Tan had also given money to an opposition member of the Australian parliament.

Tan is believed to be in China and is using his Chinese name, Shao-ghi Chen, but this could not be confirmed by justice officials. *Philip C. Tubeza*

MILF rebel killed, 4 hurt in clashes

COTABATO CITY—A Moro rebel was killed while four other persons, including two soldiers, were wounded as violence flared up anew in at least three Maguindanao towns on Thursday.

Eid Kabalu, Moro Islamic Liberation Front spokesperson, said the encounters in Shariff Aguak, Talayan and Datu Piang towns started after the military launched air assaults and shelling operations.

"It was a clear violation of the existing ceasefire agreement," Kabalu told Radio dxMS here.

He said the day-long "offensive" resulted in the wounding of at least two MILF fighters, aside from the two soldiers.

"The Army shelled MILF positions from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday," Kabalu said, adding that the MILF will file a formal protest before the GRP-MILF peace panels.

The government and the MILF have been negotiating ahead of the resumption of peace talks and have since signed two accords aimed at preventing clashes.

An officer of the Army's 6th Infantry Division in Maguindanao said the soldiers were only responding to reported harassment being perpetrated by MILF rebels against residents of Barangay Tatapan in Shariff Aguak. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Use of Sharia lawyers to help OFWs pressed

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The government should recruit Filipino lawyers knowledgeable in Arabic law to orient overseas Filipino workers leaving for Muslim countries, and help those who are already there and need legal counseling.

In a press conference here on Saturday, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) chief Virgilio Angelo said a "crack team" of Sharia law experts would be "beneficial," especially since Philippine consulate lawyers were often "disadvantaged" when counseling OFWs facing charges before Arabic courts.

Angelo said government lawyers were generally unschooled in Arabic languages and laws, and an Owwa source added that even the Filipino consulate in Dubai was still grappling with Sharia court procedures.

This situation, the INQUIRER learned, definitely did not help in the case of "Grace," a 28-year-old Ifugao woman jailed in the United Arab Emirates after she complained of being raped.

A native of Kiangan, Ifugao, Grace used to work for a food-catering firm that services the UAE flag carrier, Emirates Air. Four months ago, she accused Arab national Khalifa Hassan Khalifa of rape, but she was arrested instead by local police on May 26.

According to Evelyn Laranang, Owwa Cordillera director, Grace was prosecuted for adultery because, during the government investigation of her rape complaint, she allegedly admitted that she was in an illicit relationship with another Filipino worker.

Sharia law imposes a heavy penalty on adulterers.

Laranang said Muslim lawyers could have prepared Grace about this aspect of Arabic culture, and protected her against self-incrimination.

Information gathered by a group of Ifugaos interacting via the Internet showed that on May 17, 2003, Grace and another woman were waiting for a cab in Dubai's Riga district after attending a friend's birthday party.

Khalifa, identifying himself as a policeman, reportedly offered to take the women home. After an hour and a half, Grace's companion became suspicious, jumped out of the car, and called the police using a cellular phone.

But by the time the police found Khalifa's car, Grace was already unconscious. Khalifa was arrested, but is now out on bail.

A fact sheet from Migrante International (MI), a group helping OFWs and migrants, said Grace confessed to trumped-up charges "since proceedings were conducted in Arabic."

Only 1 mo. for overseas campaigns

THE COMMISSION on Elections (Comelec) has given candidates in the May 2004 elections only one month to woo Filipino absentee voters abroad.

Based on the schedule released by the Comelec, the campaign period in countries where Filipino absentee voters are registered officially starts on Feb. 10, 2004 and ends on Mar. 10, 2004.

But the more than seven million qualified Filipino absentee voters worldwide, only 219,722 have registered in Philippine embassies and consular offices abroad as of Sept. 24, according to the Comelec. With only two days to go before the Sept. 30 deadline to register, Comelec said it expects only 250,000 Filipinos worldwide to sign up as absentee voters for the May 2004 elections.

Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos had earlier said that their "low" target was 200,000 absentee voters. *Martin P. Marfil*

KEEPING THEIR FLAME ALIVE
Relatives and friends of the Magdalo group of rebel officers and soldiers held a prayer rally and fasted yesterday, the second-month anniversary of the July 27 Oakwood mutiny, at the Welcome-Rotonda in Quezon City. They vowed to mark the day every month in support of their loved ones. JOAN BONDOC

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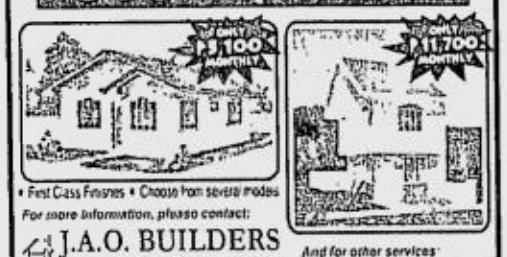

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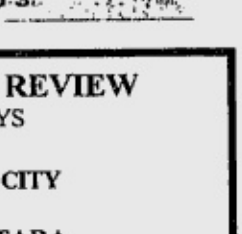
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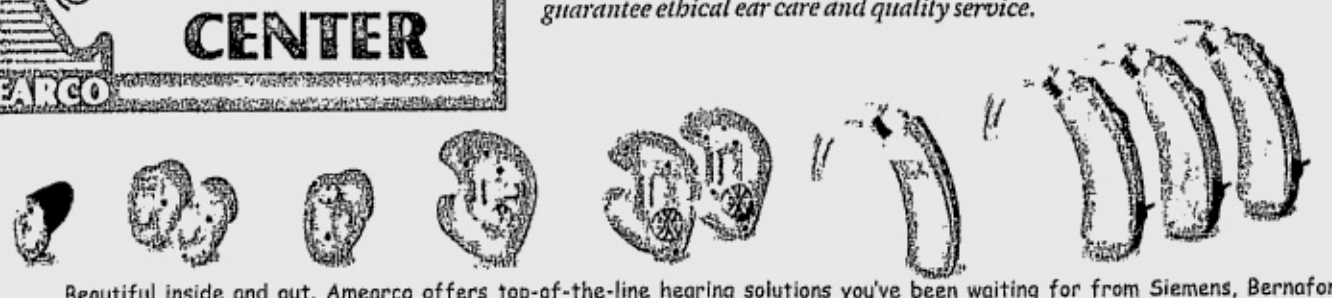
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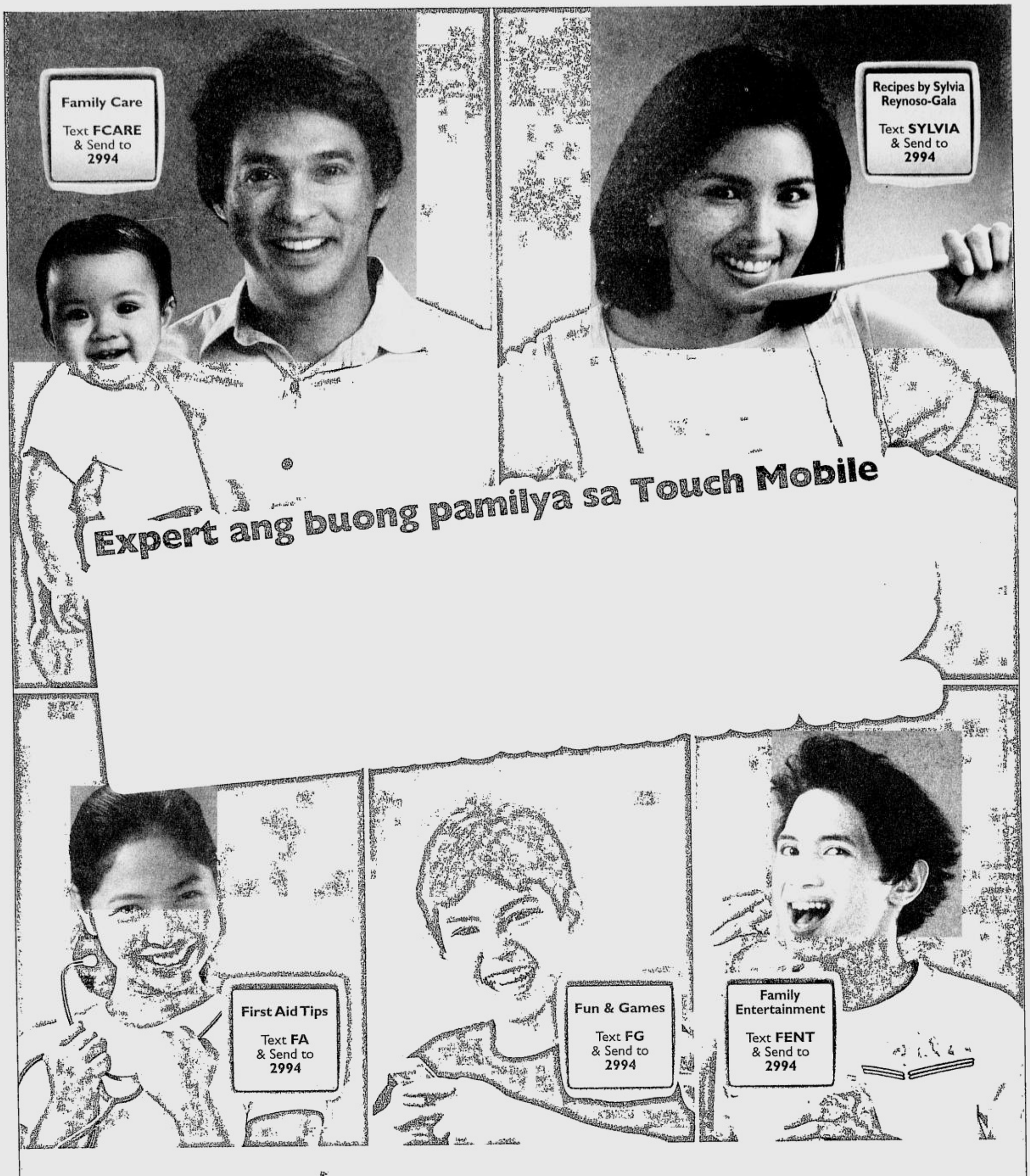

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The psychology of relationships

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD
Contributor

STUDIES have shown that survivors of traumatic breakups manifest a wide range of psychiatric problems. These include depression, anxiety, insomnia, insecurity or inferiority complex and lingering symptoms of fear or paranoia that can incapacitate the involved couples, especially the females.

Psychiatrists warn that during the first few days or weeks after the breakup, a person can develop severe situational reactions, including a suicidal tendency, requiring a 24-hour watch on the affected individual.

In most instances though, these reactions are only transient and both parties should be able to resume normal activities and go on with their lives.

An acute stress disorder, which is the most common psychiatric disorder following a traumatic breakup, may be accompanied by persistent nightmares or flashbacks of the trauma.

The affected person may feel numb and have difficulty responding to normal life situations. He or she can have ambivalent emotions, feel edgy or angry, have difficulty sleeping and seem excessively watchful and vigilant, sometimes to the point of paranoia.

One's overall level of functioning may be affected.

The first few days following the breakup, the parties involved may not be effective at work. They can't focus and their thoughts can wander. The result may be critical if one is expected to make important decisions.

Gradually, parties to a breakup are able to go back to work and perform as well as before the breakup.

A WOMAN who says she is a battered wife covers her face as she recounts her four-year ordeal with an abusive husband during a press conference in Quezon City Saturday. Beside her is Bayan Muna Rep. Liza Masa. JOAN BONDOC

However, in instances when the issues in the breakup are not immediately resolved, as in the case of a protracted court case, the emotional healing may also be delayed and can wreak undue psychological havoc on both parties. If the psychological manifestations go on for months, this could indicate a more serious psychiatric disturbance.

When love is gone

Medical experts say love is one of the best psychological "shock-absorbers" that enables a person to bear disappointments, failures and all the bad breaks in life.

"It is love that comforts the soul and makes our pain bearable. In our daily lives, when we experience loss, rejection or failure, our minds automatically protect us by remembering that at home we are loved," according to one psychologist.

"But when love is lost, there is no way to find relief; there is no comfort or protection. Most often we are not aware of how much we rely on this support until it is taken away."

A marriage counselor adds: "Without love, we fall hard from even the slightest of jumps."

One big quarrel

Couples have to realize that even strong relationships may be imperiled with one serious quarrel wherein the couple totally lose control of the situation and themselves. They utter words and do things that inflict irreparable damage to the relationship.

Couples are thus always counseled to make a conscious effort to avoid at all cost this one big quarrel.

Some relationships, however, are inherently difficult to nurture.

Dominant partner

In a "traditional" relationship, the men tend to use anger, authority and logic to have their way, while the women use emotions and helplessness to influence their partners. In such relationships, male domination is accepted and the females play a mere supportive role.

In modern societies, however, there are female-dominated families, with the male spouses playing a supportive role. As long as both parties accept this modified family model, this reversal of roles can work well.

But in families where both the male and female are dominant, such as when both are successful career people, then a continuing struggle and conflict in the relationship may take place since both will try to assert their roles when they have misunderstandings or differences.

For such relationship to flourish, there must be some yielding of power by both sides.

Insecure control freak

Psychologists say a person who feels a need to wield power and to control others is secretly or unconsciously insecure and anxious. Presumably, he tries to deny his weaknesses by dominating others.

Education appears to have an effect on a person's need for power.

Research have shown that as men get more education, they have less need for power.

But the opposite is true for women; they want more power as they get more educated. This is probably because women have to fight for power in school and the workplace even if they are well-educated, whereas men are given power and respect along with their educational degrees (Veroff & Feld, 1971).

This need for power has a profound effect on relationships for men.

Power-oriented men

Tests have shown that college males have strong needs for power than those who were not in university.

College males have more relationships. Compared to men with less need for power, college males have poor relationships with their partners and loved them less. They had more relationship problems, expressed a bigger interest in dating other women, and were more likely to leave the relationship (Stewart and Rubin, 1976).

These power-oriented college males eventually marry women who are not career-oriented, indicating that they shift from dominating women sexually to dominating their wives economically.

Research further show that college males who married highly motivated, career-oriented women had less need for power, felt more need for close relationships, liked college, got higher grades and in general seemed to be more secure (Winter, Stewart and McClelland, 1977).

True love transforms

In all relationships, there is always a desire to have one's own way, and psychologists say that the success of the relationship hinges on both parties' mutual desire to give way.

In a one-sided relationship, the self-centered tyrant may be amazingly turned into an accommodating charmer in the first few months or years, only to show his true nature eventually.

But in due time, true love can transform even the worst self-centered tyrant into a very understanding spouse. The only hitch is that it must be the egoistic tyrant who must be in love. *(Dr. Castillo, a cardiologist, writes the column "Medical Files" in the* INQUIRER*'s Science/Health section every Saturday.)*

Kris inspires battered women to come out

From page A1

KRIS' CASE: "Even assertive and outspoken women become victims of violence," says psychologist. TV GRAB FROM TV PATROL

a television interview.

Psychologist Jovita Montes, Gabriela health and services director, said that they have been receiving an average of five calls daily—a marked increase from zero to two—immediately after Aquino told of her alleged ordeal in the hands of Marquez.

"Awareness brought about by media attention on domestic violence and abuse of women generally encourages victims to come out and tell their story," Montes told the INQUIRER.

"This was also the case when Maria Teresa Carlson committed suicide supposedly due to the alleged abuse from her husband," Montes said.

Montes said an eight-year trending of Gabriela's abuse cases shows that domestic violence peaks during the months of January, March, May and June.

"These months are when (families) have a lot of expenditures. The economic factor contributes a lot (to relationship problems) because when a family is burdened with financial problems, it is hard to expect a harmonious relationship," Montes said.

She explained that families experience financial difficulty in January because of the expenses incurred during the holiday season. May and June are the months when families prepare for school expenditures. March is Women's Month and awareness for women's rights is high.

"Women are indeed nurturers and bearers of problems and pain," Montes said.

While most of Gabriela's counsel-seekers are from the underprivileged class, Aquino's story proves that domestic abuse can also happen among the rich.

"Even assertive and outspoken women become victims of violence," Montes said.

Montes, however, lamented that many of those who seek counseling from them do not take the next step of going to their office to discuss possible legal action against their abusive partners.

In its report covering the first semester of 2003, Gabriela noted a marked increase in the cases being handled by the group's Health and Services Department.

A total of 137 abuse cases were recorded from January to June this year, surpassing the 115 reported cases for the whole year of 2002.

Gabriela handled 79 wife battery cases during the first semester of 2003, up from the 42 cases last year.

It handled a total of 18 rape cases during the first half of 2003, surpassing the 17 reported for the whole year of 2002.

Cases of abandonment are also up at 30 for the first semester compared to just 16 last year.

Ping not keen ...

From page A1

gal-Arroyo and independent Sen. Noli de Castro who has consistently led voter preference surveys for president and vice president.

'Kabayan'

A party official who asked not to be named said Lakas leaders are already talking to the popular broadcaster who might then be "invited" to join the ruling party in a Gloria-Noli ticket.

NPC spokesperson Francis Escudero said there was "nothing definite" yet on the candidacy of Cojuangco and the party did not plan to make any announcement regarding this before the end of the month as earlier promised.

But Cojuangco was still the NPC's presidential candidate, Escudero said.

And should the tycoon refuse a draft, the party would support a coalition candidate, he said.

Asked what was taking Cojuangco so long to decide, Escudero said the businessman has yet to finish "consultations" and has to be "flexible" at this time.

The prospect of a Cojuangco candidacy and a Cojuangco-Poe team-up is something that militants in Congress do not relish.

'Disturbed'

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, a former anti-Marcos activist, said she was "deeply disturbed" by the "pathetic attitude" of many politicians who are eagerly awaiting the plans of these two prospective candidates.

She said "the issue of democracy" was at stake in a Cojuangco candidacy as he was a businessman who prospered during the Marcos dictatorship and even now is facing court cases for allegedly appropriating the coconut levy funds.

She dismissed Poe as having no experience whether in administration or politics.

"Those who are pushing for the candidacy of Cojuangco and Poe do not have the interests of the Filipino people in mind. Why are we reducing ourselves to this pathetic situation?" she said.

'Bakla'

Lacson has insisted that the NPC must break its relationship with the Lakas-CMD before coalescing with the LDP, the largest opposition party.

He claimed that other party members had insisted on this during the party's national executive meeting last Thursday.

Maceda, the NPC's president emeritus, said there was no need for that as the NPC's alliance with Lakas was not a political one but a working arrangement.

"*Yun ang mahirap bakla yung status ng* NPC as a political party [that's the problem it's neither here nor there]," Lacson said reacting to Maceda's statement.

As for Angara's reported preference for Cojuangco as the opposition presidential standard bearer, Lacson said Angara held just one vote. It would be the LDP national congress that would make the choice, he said.

"If Angara has a preference for a candidate outside the LDP, I don't think it will sit well with the members. *LDP kami pareparehо, ba't naman kami pipili sa labas?* [We are all LDP, why would we pick an outsider?]" he said.

Commenting on Cojuangco or Poe being chosen to lead the opposition ticket in 2004, Lacson said "all of these things can be resolved."

GMA No. 2

The Lakas official said De Castro was being considered as Ms Macapagal's running mate because of his popularity with the masses.

The Lakas official said other Lakas leaders are also looking at Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Sen. Juan Flavier and Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. as possible running mates for the President, if she runs.

Asked why Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda was not being considered, the Lakas official said party leaders were unsure if she will stay with the party.

"She has endorsed somebody else," the official said, referring to reports that Legarda has endorsed Cojuangco.

He said the party has no policy against two women making up the party ticket.

"A Glo-Ren (Gloria-Loren) ticket would be interesting but we don't know. Her (Legarda's) body language is different. We don't know if she's still with us," the Lakas official said.

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WORLD STAGE
President Macapagal-Arroyo delivers a speech before the United Nations General Assemby in New York Friday. EPA PHOTO

From praying to spraying...

From page A1

et and accommodations in Bangkok.

The FAO was founded in 1945 to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living in rural populations, and to improve their agricultural productivity.

Since its inception, the agency said in its website, food production had "increased at an unprecedented rate, outpacing the doubling of the world's population."

"Since the early 1960s, the proportion of hungry people in the developing world has been reduced from more than 50 percent to less than 20 percent," it said. "Despite these gains, however, more than 790 million people in the developing world—more than the total population of North America and Western Europe combined—still go hungry."

The FAO said its specific priority was "encouraging sustainable agriculture and rural development, a long-term strategy for increasing food production and food security while conserving and managing natural resources."

How Ate Luds became Inday

From page A1

But even in entertainment journalism, Lourdes did her family proud. She was a pioneer, not just of the television entertainment-oriented talk show, but also in combining public affairs and show business. She had an unerring sense of what would "click" with the mass audience, imparting the need to communicate with the *masa* in a typically terse and catchy and yet apt reminder: *"Kakagatin kaya ito ni Aling Tasing?* (Will Aling Tasing buy it?)" Even if at times Inday strayed into the territory of the bizarre, such as standing as godmother to a mudfish said to have been born of a woman, her sensing of the public pulse never failed her. Even her more outrageous coverages earned a public following.

Family rebel

Our parents may have expressed shock and not a little concern at Lourdes's latest caper, having evolved through her youthful misadventures into the family rebel, but we, her younger cousins, were secretly thrilled at having a celebrity in our midst. At the height of her power and influence, she could draw thousands of Pasig residents to their family home during our annual Flores de Mayo celebration by simply inviting a stellar cast of performers, including the legendary superstar, Nora Aunor.

It was also at the height of her show business career that Inday presided over what her daughter Dolly Ann once called "a small barangay" of colleagues, up-and-coming entertainers, assistants, gofers, house help, advisers and counselors, all of whom at one time or another would make an appearance at a family affair. For if Inday had a knack for anything, it was for converting even utter strangers into family members, thereby expanding an already huge and rambunctious clan into an even larger and noisier one.

Spiritual

So we were not surprised when, as word of her health problems made the rounds, her colleagues in the field took time to fete her, honor her and grant whatever was in their power to give to recognize her role in the evolution and growth of the industry she had loved from her days as a schoolgirl.

Through the years, and with experience, Lourdes turned ever more to matters spiritual, learning that it is in letting go of one's material and physical desires that one finally finds peace and resolution. Even with her passing, my cousin Lourdes is still telling us something.

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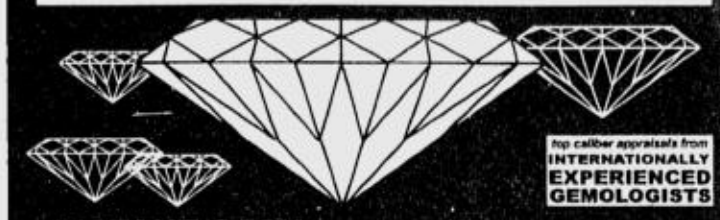

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2003

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

PEACE PROCESS AT STANDSTILL

4 'powers' say Israel, Palestine to blame

UNITED NATIONS—The four powers behind the Middle East "road map" on Friday painted a grim picture of the peace process, saying that both Israel and the Palestinians were not taking the steps needed to make progress.

After the United States, the United Nations, the European Union and Russia held their first high-level talks on the so-called "road map" plan since June, they blasted Israeli settlement activity and continuing Palestinian attacks.

"Each party must do more to address, immediately and simultaneously, the core concerns of the other as described in the road map," UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said, reading a joint statement.

Speaking on his own behalf, Annan said the two sides "seem unable to find their way out of the current quagmire" without outside help.

"It seems to me that bold steps, in keeping with the road map, are now necessary to salvage peace. Small steps have not worked. They are unlikely to work in the future," he said.

But Annan stopped short of spelling out what those steps might be. His chief envoy to the Middle East, Terje Roed-Larsen, told the UN Security Council earlier this month that the peace process was at a standstill.

The group statement condemned the "vicious terror attacks" by Palestinian militants in the past two months and called on the Palestinian leadership to take "immediate, decisive steps" to clamp down on those planning bloodshed.

It told the Israelis: "Settlement activity must stop." The statement also noted "with great concern" the security barrier being built by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government in a bid to stop the attacks.

"It results in the confiscation of Palestinian land, cuts off the movement of people and goods, and undermines Palestinians' trust in the road map process as it appears to prejudge final borders of a Palestinian state," it said.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell said he agreed with Annan, Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and Foreign Minister Franco Frattini of current EU president Italy to send envoys more regularly to the region in a bid to get the peace process off the ground again.

"The implementation of the road map is confronting some serious problems," Ivanov said. The four principals said they would meet again before the end of the year.

The plan envisions a Palestinian state by 2005, something that Annan said was essential to resolving the crisis. *AFP*

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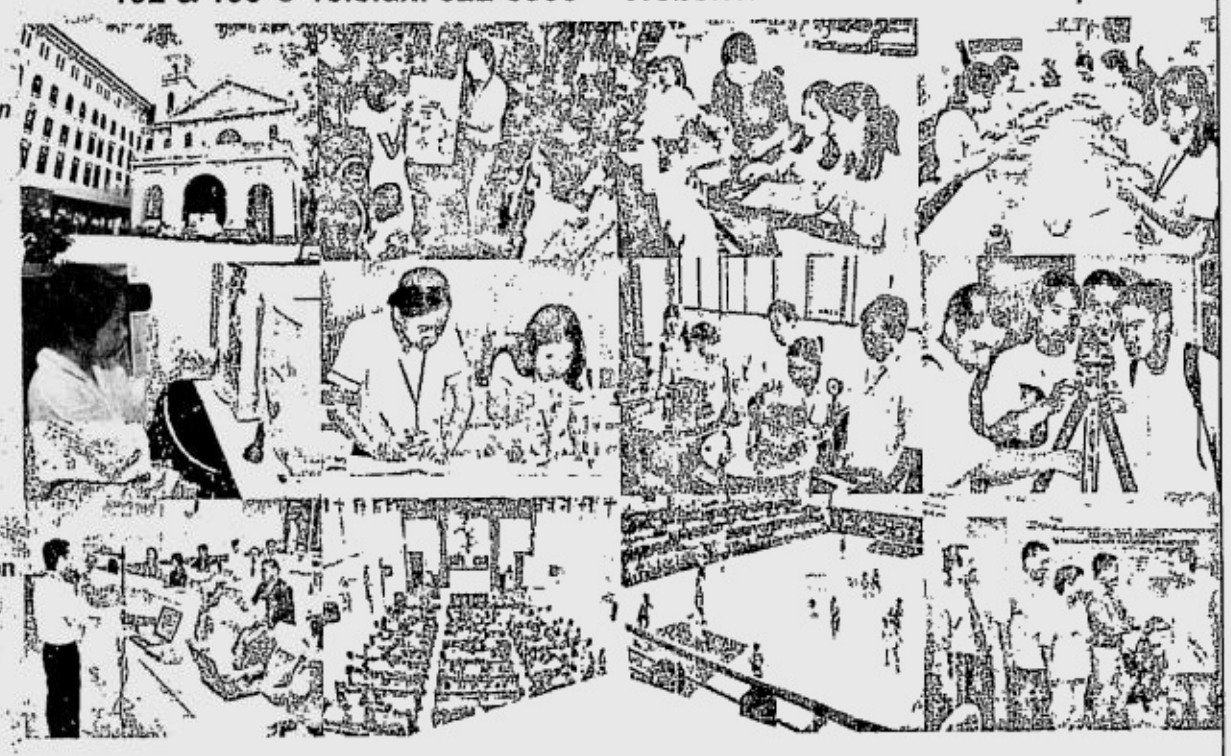

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US sets 6-mo deadline for Iraq to draft constitution

UNITED NATIONS—In a nod to antiwar members of the UN Security Council like France, the United States on Friday pressed ahead with plans to set a six-month deadline for the interim Iraqi government to draft and ratify a constitution.

The planned deadline was announced by Secretary of State Colin Powell as France continued to insist that Iraq be returned to self-governance as soon as possible, shunning the US preference for the Iraqis to set their own timeline for autonomy.

"You have to have some sense of time on this and so six months is a good date to put out there," Powell told reporters here after a meeting of the so-called international diplomatic "quartet" on the Middle East.

At the same time, Powell stressed that missing the six-month deadline would not destroy plans for returning Iraq to self-rule.

"The term 'deadline' suggests that something awful happens at the end of six months, and I wouldn't want to convey the impression..," he said.

He suggested the polls could be held within six months after the completion of the constitution but would not commit to a definite deadline.

"If it is possible to meet that goal of finishing the constitutional work in six months, then it is quite appropriate to consider that shortly thereafter the people will be able to ratify such a constitution and prepare for elections," Powell said.

Speaking late Thursday, Powell said Washington was "anxious" for the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council to meet the six-month deadline and then hold democratic elections.

The United States has proposed a new UN Security Council resolution that would create a US-led multinational force for Iraq and call for the Iraqi Governing Council to set a timeline for the country's return to self-rule. *AFP*

US working on North Korea nuclear plan

NEW YORK—The United States is working on a detailed plan to deal with the North Korean nuclear issue in advance of an expected second round of six-party talks, South Korean Foreign Minister Yoon Young-Kwan said on Friday.

"This greatly enhances the prospects of a diplomatic resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue," Yoon told a lunch sponsored by the Asia Society and the Council on Foreign Relations.

After months of accelerating weapons program activity, the North attended talks in Beijing last month with China, the United States, South Korea, Japan and Russia.

The talks, intended to address the crisis over Pyongyang's nuclear program, may resume in November although no date has been agreed upon.

During the Beijing talks, the six parties laid out their individual positions.

Yoon said the next rounds "will discuss detailed methods of terminating North Korea's nuclear weapons program and seek ways to ease the country's security concerns and economic hardship in one way or another.

"The United States now seems to be working on a more detailed plan for these issues, including North Korea's security concerns," he said, without elaborating.

He also said it was time for the United States and South Korea, a key Asian ally, to begin a serious independent study on arrangements for a permanent peace agreement to replace the armistice that has existed on the Korean peninsula since the 1950-53 war ended.

The minister devoted much of his speech to advocating negotiations with the North and he indirectly rebutted hard-line skeptics in the Bush administration who abhor the idea of deal-making with the isolated communist nation. *Reuters*

PET OF THE FUTURE AFP

Japan's electronics giant Sony employee Eri Hayakawa displays a skeleton model of the new robot dog 'AIBO ERS-7' during the press preview at the company's showroom in Tokyo, Sept. 26. The new AIBO, weighing 1.6 kg, is equipped with 20 joints to make smooth body movements and 576MHz 64bit RISC processor on its CPU. Sony will put it on the market in November with a price of 185,000 yen ($1,580), but the skeleton model is not for sale.

Sex trader tired of bribe wants power

BANGKOK—A sex entrepreneur who became a civic crusader against corruption after becoming fed up with paying bribes to police has applied to set up his own political party, an election official said Friday.

Chuwit Kamolvisit, the owner of a several Bangkok massage parlors, applied Friday to set up the "Thon Thrakul Thai"—"Thai Ancestry" party—said Thanapun Srisakorn, an official at the Office of the Election Commission.

Chuwit was not immediately available for comment, but the official Thai News Agency reported that his political party will focus on fighting corruption.

Chuwit became a local hero in July when he publicly spoke out on what is an open secret in Thai society, the prevalence of police corruption.

Several high-ranking police officers were shifted to inactive posts after Chuwit, who owns the country's largest massage parlor chain, alleged that he gave 12 million baht ($300,000) in bribes to police every month for several years.

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Cellular phones betray lovers in text-crazy Italy

ROME—If Romeo and Juliet's love story unfolded in Verona today, chances are that the young maiden would not hail her lover with a cry from the balcony but with a text message sent from her mobile phone: "Romeo, where 4 art thou?!!"

Italians, like most Europeans, are text-message obsessed. And this is having an unexpected consequence: Mobile phones have become a leading giveaway of Italians' secret affairs, with amorous messages and inexplicable call records stored in phone memory for any suspicious spouse to peruse.

Divorce lawyers rub their hands together at the phenomenon, publications have warned readers to watch out, and one private investigator has issued a list of "Five Golden Rules" on how to cheat with a cell phone and not get caught.

Antonella, a 19-year-old art student who declined to give her last name, recounted an ugly experience involving a boyfriend and a mobile phone.

"We were looking at the cell phone together because he was expecting a message from a relative," she said. "Instead, it was from a girl saying she'd had a lovely time with him last night and sending him lots of kisses."

Their breakup came soon after.

Rules

Private eye Miriam Tomponzi, whose agency issued the "Five Golden Rules," said mobiles are to blame for 87 percent of discovered affairs in Italy, according to an in-house study.

Tomponzi, speaking in an office stuffed with old-school sleuthing tools like the magnifying glass, explained why this very modern messaging device appeals to the unfaithful.

"Say I'm talking to you, I can write a text message to my lover without you realizing. I send it calmly, it's done. But a phone call I couldn't do, right? 'Amore, I love you, I want you'—written I can do it, verbally I can't," Tomponzi said. "This is the convenience of the short messages."

Divorce lawyer Cesare Rimini said text messages have taken the place once held by love letters.

"Secret affairs are discovered by what? Through communication," Rimini said. "Communication at one time was letters—I've joked that it was once even Morse code. Today, the methods of communication are these."

That mobiles should eventually intersect with love in Italy is not surprising.

Obsession

Rarely does a crowd of Italians gather without at least one punching in a cell phone text message. The tell-tale beep of an incoming message will send them fumbling excitedly for their phones. It is like passing notes in school, only on a national level.

Even holier circles have taken it up: The Vatican now sends urgent notes to journalists using phone messaging.

Within Europe, Italy has one of the highest levels of mobile phone usage, with market penetration of 92.4 percent—53 million mobile subscriptions in a country of about 58 million people, according to the industry review Mobile Communications. The United States still lags far behind Europe in cell phones, with about 50 percent penetration, editor Shani Raja said.

Raja points out, however, that the 53 million Italian subscriptions includes duplication—some people who have more than one account.

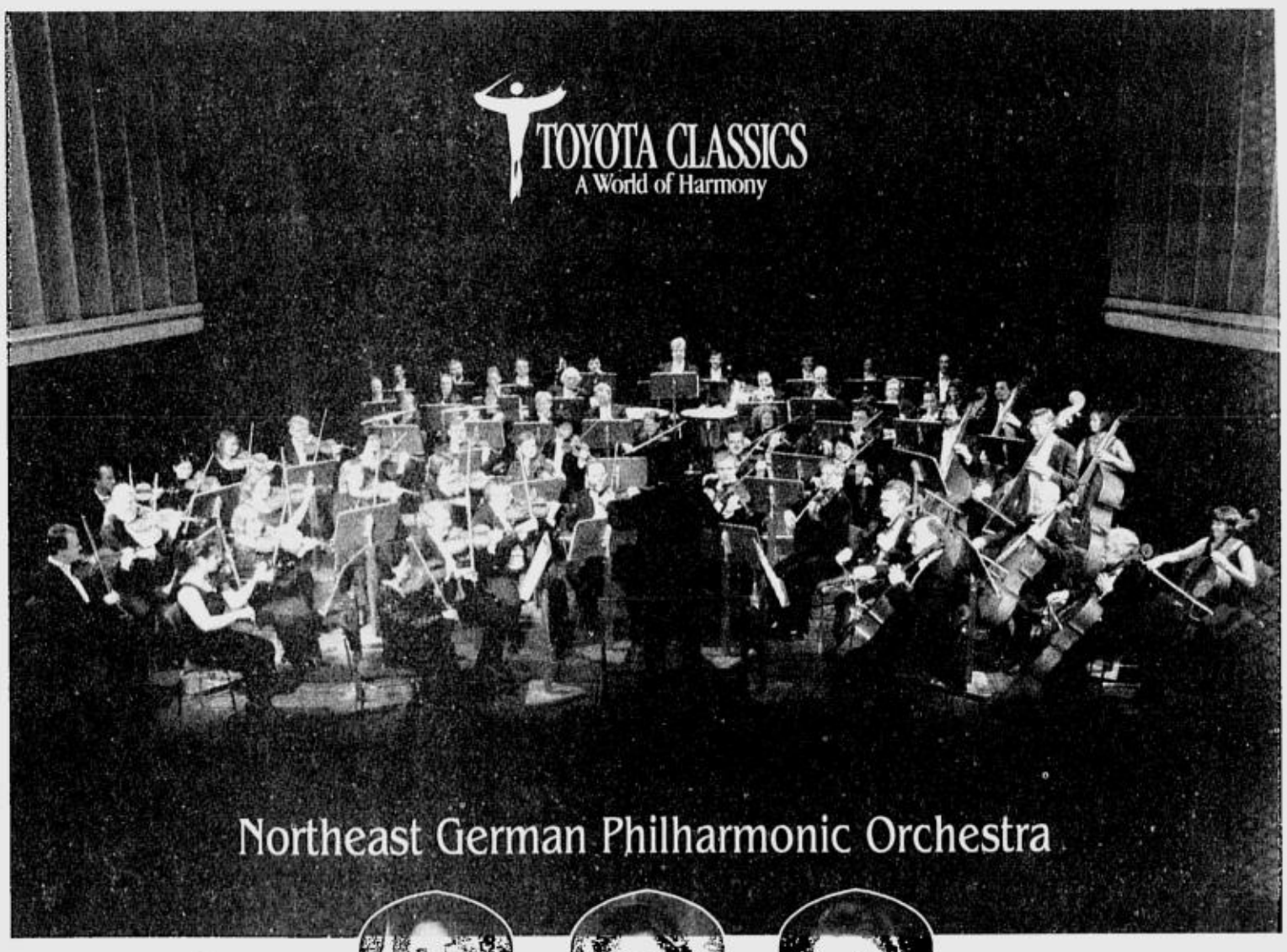
Often, the reason for duplication is that customers devote one mobile phone to work calls and another to those from family. In some cases, however, the reasons may be less innocent.

"It's not rare to see women with two or three microchips"—each one of which offers a different phone number—"for use according to the legitimate or illegitimate purposes of their phones," lawyer Rimini said.

Alter Ego

Mobile operator Vodafone Omnitel has made life easier for those seeking multiple numbers, with a service called Alter Ego, which gives subscribers two separate numbers on the same microchip.

Asked about the cheating possibilities this offers, Vodafone spokeswoman Silvia de Blasio said: "It's not a service created with that aim." *AP*



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Burma tightens security around Suu Kyi home

RANGOON—Burma tightened security around the lakeside home of democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi on Saturday as Western governments and opposition groups demanded her release from house arrest.

But Burma's Southeast Asian neighbors, embarrassed by her nearly four months in detention, said Suu Kyi's return home was a positive gesture by the military government.

The Nobel laureate, who had major surgery a week ago, rode in a two-car convoy on Friday from a hospital in the capital to the house where she had been confined for more than seven of the past 14 years.

Security was tight near her home on Saturday with booms across major roads, police checking cars and restricting access.

"Only people with a pass are allowed into this area," a plainclothes security officer told Reuters.

Right step

Indonesia and Thailand, among the Southeast Asian neighbors pushing for Suu Kyi's release before a regional summit next month, said Rangoon's decision to move her should not be ignored.

"Allowing Aung San Suu Kyi to return home is a step in the right direction for democracy, which involves listening to the opinion of various sides," said Thai government spokesperson Sita Divari.

Britain and the United States called for her unconditional and immediate release.

"Aung San Suu Kyi is again a prisoner in her own home and the military regime flagrantly continues to disregard the Burmese people's demands for democracy and human rights," British Foreign Office Minister Mike O'Brien said.

The United States, which along with the European Union has tightened sanctions against the junta, echoed that view.

"We remain concerned about her situation as well as (that) of other political prisoners," State Department spokesperson Adam Ereli said. "We reiterate our calls for the junta to immediately lift all restrictions on her."

Indonesia, which chairs the 10-member Association of South East Asian Nations, wants Burma, also known as Myanmar, to free Suu Kyi before Asean leaders meet in Bali, Indonesia on Oct. 7-8.

"When something positive is happening we should give appreciation. This is not an insignificant movement," said Marty Natalegawa, Indonesia's foreign affairs spokesperson.

Suu Kyi, the daughter of Burma's independence hero, won the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize while under house arrest. She was detained on May 30 after a clash between her followers and government supporters. Many of her followers were also held.

Burma's military rulers said Suu Kyi, held in isolation at a secret location before entering the hospital, had returned home, but did not say whether she was under house arrest.

"She will continue to rest at home under the supervision of her doctors while the government stands ready to provide and assist her with medical and humanitarian needs," a government statement said on Friday.

Officials were unavailable for comment on Saturday. *Reuters*

FORLORN
Albany whale watcher Andrew Halsall holds the lower jaw of one of the nine dead sperm whales, allegedly cut off with a chain saw overnight, at Doubtful Island Bay in the state of Western Australia, 25 Sept. Nine sperm whales, 10 meters long and weighing 20 tons, were stranded on a reef off the Australian coast 25 Sept. but wildlife officers said they were powerless to help them because of their bulk and the risk of shark attack. AFP

BBC won't be the same again after probe of Hutton death

LONDON—Emerging from a damaging inquiry that has gripped Britain, the BBC can be sure of one thing as it surveys the wreckage—it will never be the same again.

The British broadcaster, lauded around the world for its gold-standard reporting, has spent the summer defending its reputation in a high-profile investigation into the death of a weapons expert. Insiders say it will not survive untouched.

A verdict is not expected for several weeks but Auntie, as the BBC is fondly referred to in Britain, is plotting a wide-ranging shake-up to defuse criticism that might be meted out by Lord Hutton, the judge leading the inquiry.

"Neither the BBC nor the government will come out of the Hutton washing machine whiter than white," said Jamie Cowling, a research fellow at the Institute of Public Policy Research.

"There is no question the BBC will have to change." That change could include sacrificial lambs, others said.

At the very least, Andrew Gilligan—the journalist behind the report at the center of the inquiry—is expected to be axed from the BBC's agenda-setting Today radio program.

Furor

Gilligan sparked a furor by accusing Tony Blair's government of embellishing the case for war on Iraq. Gilligan's source, weapons expert David Kelly, subsequently killed himself.

The 81-year-old institution argues the broad thrust of its report was accurate but admits it made mistakes and is now under pressure to tighten editorial guidelines and management lines.

The BBC, publicly funded and overseen by a chair appointed by the state, is no stranger to political spats and has gone to great lengths to prove its independence and take on a more aggressive edge in an increasingly competitive market.

But insiders say it is time for a culture change.

The inquiry comes at a key time as the broadcaster gears up for a battle over its future, with its charter up for renewal.

Less clear cut is the future of the BBC's straight-talking Director General Greg Dyke and Chair Gavyn Davies.

The executives—both had been labelled "Tony's Cronies" for their backing of Blair—have been knocked for fuelling the row in a rush to show their independence from the government.

"There are clearly questions about whether they rushed too quickly to defend Gilligan. However, you have to see this in the context of what was a pretty ferocious onslaught by the government," said Steven Barnett, professor of communications at London's University of Westminster.

Critics say the BBC's top positions should be reviewed.

For Dyke, that means a debate over whether the director general should both lead the BBC and act as editor in chief. *Reuters*

Long gone are the days when rela

With Globe's intern
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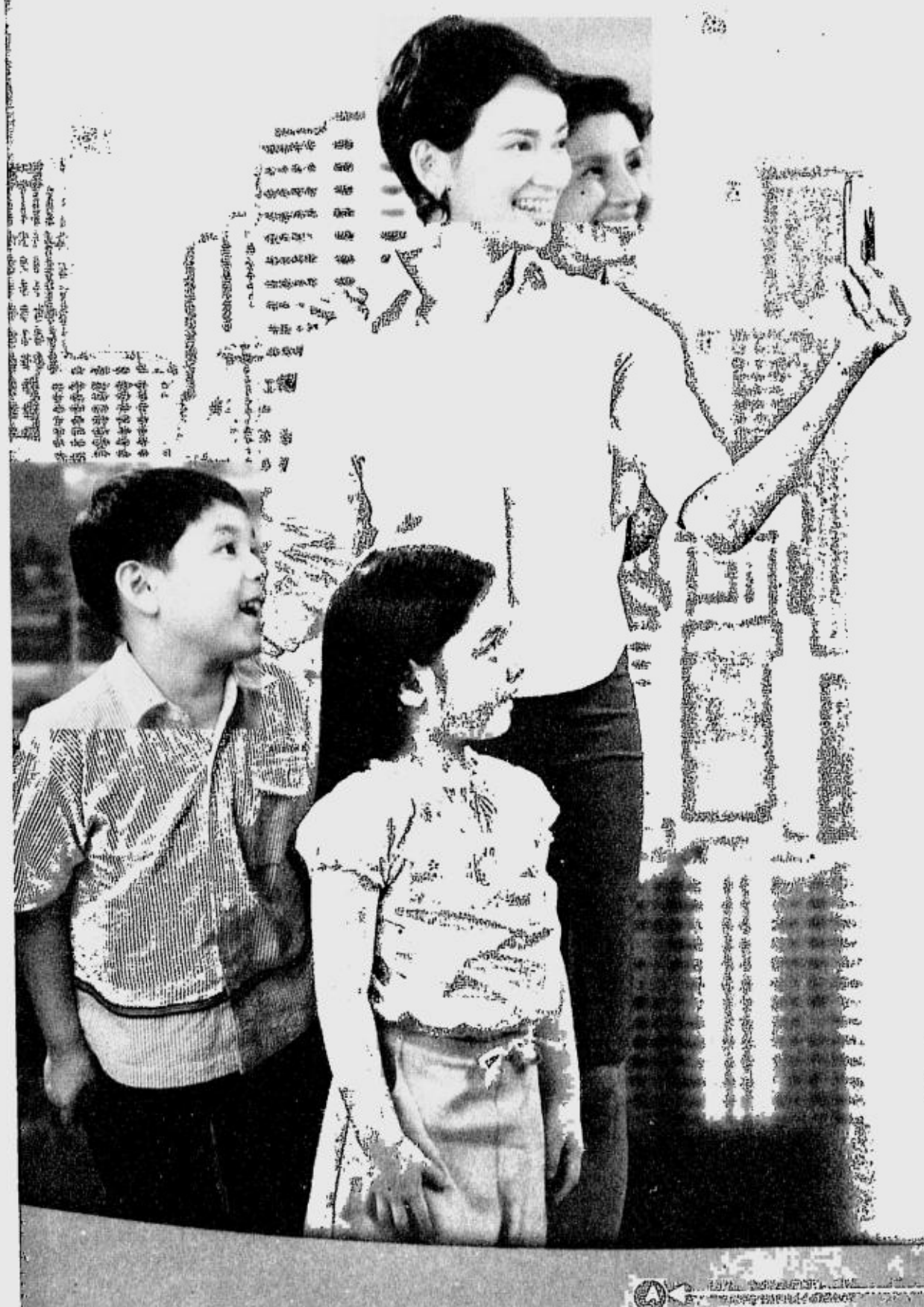

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Man at center of euthanasia debate dies

BERCK-SUR-MER, France—A severely handicapped man at the center of debate in France over euthanasia died on Friday, two days after his mother put an overdose of sedatives in his intravenous drip.

Vincent Humbert, a 22-year-old former fireman who was quadriplegic, blind and dumb, hit the headlines in December when he sent a letter to President Jacques Chirac pleading for a dispensation from France's criminal ban on mercy killing.

His mother Marie Humbert, who has waged a passionate campaign for her son's right to die, gave him the overdose in hospital on Wednesday—three years to the day since the road accident that caused his injuries.

Doctors in the northern town of Berck-Sur-Mer said they decided to withhold treatment Friday morning after Vincent sank into a coma.

"The medical team that has cared for him for three years took their collective and difficult decision in complete independence," they said in a statement.

Taken to custody

Marie Humbert, 48, was taken into custody by police Thursday on suspicion of "attempted murder" but allowed out to be at her son's side and to receive psychiatric care. She was expected to be placed under judicial investigation for her role in her son's death.

However, Justice Minister Dominique Perben issued a statement Friday asking prosecutors "to act with the greatest humanity in applying the law, taking into account the suffering of the mother and the young man."

The Humbert affair was on the front page of most French newspapers Friday, prompting agonized debate over the ethics of euthanasia.

With a headline reading "Let us end this hypocrisy," the left-wing daily Liberation said it was time for the law to recognize exceptional cases under which mercy killing might be justified.

"Thanks to Marie Humbert, those in political power will perhaps understand this. And then they can thank her," it said.

Banned

Though euthanasia is banned in France, it is allowed in tightly defined circumstances in the Netherlands and Belgium. In Switzerland, assisted suicide is legal and there are associations which help terminally ill patients to take the step.

According to the British medical journal The Lancet, euthanasia is secretly practiced on a large scale across Europe, with doctors consulting with families before hastening a terminally ill patient's death.

Between one and 3.4 percent of deaths in Europe happen this way, the journal reported.

Marie Humbert had signaled her intention to try to kill her son this week with a series of media interviews in which she said his death was "programmed."

Timing

Vincent's death was timed to coincide with the publication of his book entitled "I ask you for the right to die," in which he explained why he wanted to end his life. He was able to communicate to write the book by pressing his thumb against a journalist's hand.

"I will never see this book," he wrote in it, "because I died on September 24, 2000 . . . Since that day, I do not live. I am made to live. I am kept alive. For whom, for what—I do not know. All I know is that I am the living dead, that I never wished for this false death."

"I would so much like to find a way to snuff it, to leave before I am totally cracked, spiteful or bitter. The more time passes, the less I want to live out my days as a shrivelled vegetable on a hospital bed. It is not possible," he wrote. *AFP*

GLASS STAIRS
Ambassador-at-large Tommy Koh, leading Singapore's legal team, walks up glass steps during the second day of a hearing at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in the northern German city Hamburg Sept. 26, 2003. The request to pass provisional measures in the case on land reclamation by Singapore in and around the Straits of Johor between Malaysia and Singapore started in Hamburg on Thursday and was expected to continue until Sept. 27. REUTERS

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Palestinian kills baby, Israeli man on New Year

JERUSALEM—A Palestinian gunman shot dead a two-month-old baby girl and a man who opened the door to him at a Jewish settlement in the West Bank on Friday as Israelis celebrated the Jewish New Year.

The gunman was later shot dead. He also wounded the baby's mother and father in the attack, launched as Israelis held traditional family meals marking Rosh Hashanah, or New Year.

The shooting dealt a new blow to the US-backed peace "road map" shortly after international mediators meeting in New York urged both sides to take steps to implement it. It was sure to anger Israelis and could provoke a tough response.

"We have two dead people, a 28-year-old man and a baby girl of two months," an emergency medical worker said by telephone from the Negohot settlement near the West Bank City of Hebron.

High alert

On the eve of the third anniversary of a Palestinian uprising for statehood, Israel was on high alert. It had barred Palestinians from entering, except for humanitarian reasons, until Rosh Hashanah ends at sunset on Sunday.

A military spokesperson said the man was a New Year guest who unwittingly opened the door to the attacker when he knocked at a house at 9 p.m. after infiltrating the settlement.

The military spokesperson said it was the 15th attack launched by Palestinians on a Friday evening, the Jewish Sabbath, or a Jewish holiday since the uprising began.

It revived memories of a Palestinian suicide bombing which killed 29 people as they sat down for the traditional seder meal at the start of Passover in a hotel in the Mediterranean Coastal City of Netanya on March 27 last year.

"This shows again the ugly face of Palestinian terrorists," said Jonathan Peled, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesperson.

"It shows they are totally oblivious to the sanctity of life, the sanctity of religion. This is a barbaric act which raises a question about whether we have a partner on the other side."

He said it would take time to decide how to respond to the attack but expected no major change in policy. Israel has responded to recent suicide bombings and other attacks by launching missile strikes to kill Islamic militant leaders.

Killings continue

Palestinian militants say they have carried out the recent attacks because Israel failed to lift military blockades and continued killing Palestinians despite a truce they had announced. Israel said the militants used the truce to regroup.

Palestinians regard Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as major obstacles to peace and have regularly attacked them. The international community regards settlements as illegal under international law. Israel disputes this.

Nabil Abu Rdainah, an aide to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, said: "The aim of the Israeli government is to waste time and avoid implementing the road map, which is going to harm the interests of everybody, including the United States. *Reuters*

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Use of force

IN A KEYNOTE address to the United Nations, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan denounced the United States' unilateral approach to conflict resolution, saying that preemption, if widely accepted, could lead to "a proliferation of the unilateral and lawless use of force." Annan said the US-led military action on Iraq brought the UN to a "fork in the road," from which it was time to pull out.

EDITORIAL

Annan called on world leaders to consider reforms, suggesting the need to change the Security Council's composition. He warned that the doctrine of preemption and use of ad hoc coalitions could lead to the marginalization of the UN, underlining the deep divisions in the world body after the United States, with the help of a few allies, invaded Iraq without a mandate from the Security Council.

Annan's speech provoked a strong reaction from President George W. Bush. Unapologetic in his speech, Bush defended the US doctrine, saying that "the nations of the world must have the wisdom and the will to stop grave threats before they arrive."

The General Assembly speeches highlighted the deep differences between the United States and France.

Through a new UN resolution, Bush sought greater international cooperation in the reconstruction of Iraq in the form of wider global contributions of money and peacekeeping troops. He said, "The nation of Iraq needs and desires our aid and all nations of good will should step forward and provide support." Bush made the proposal in the face of stepped-up attacks on American occupation troops in Iraq, the escalating costs (for the United States) of war, the erosion of his popularity as the American presidential election nears, and the sluggish economic growth that critics deride as growth without creating jobs.

Although Bush called for a greater UN role in post-war Iraq, he was unclear as to what role the United States would cede to the UN, especially on the question of who will be in control of an expanded international force in Iraq. Broader international participation in peacekeeping will allow the United States to withdraw a significant number of US troops from Iraq.

Bush's proposal clashed with the speech of President Jacques Chirac of France, who called for the substantial turnover of authority to the Iraqis within months. He said transfer of sovereignty was "indispensable to stability and reconstruction."

Chirac's intervention sprang from the challenge hurled by Annan. Annan said: "This may be a moment no less decisive than 1945 itself, when the United Nations was founded. Now we must decide whether it is possible to continue on the basis agreed then, or whether radical changes are needed. We must not shy away from questions about adequacy and effectiveness of the rules and instruments at our disposal." That could include, he said, "a discussion on the criteria for an early authorization of coercive measures to address certain types of threats, for instance, terrorist groups armed with weapons of mass destruction."

In agreeing with Annan, Chirac said that drastic action was needed to defend the multilateral order, even as he insisted that only multilateralism could address today's complex problems. "There is no alternative to the United Nations, but in the face of these challenges, this fundamental choice calls for far-reaching reforms of our organization," he said. "It is the role of the Council to set the bounds to the use of force. No one is entitled to arrogate to himself the right to utilize it unilaterally and preventively."

While the United States sought an unspecified larger UN role in Iraq, Bush did not rule out further US preventive action against threats to its security as determined by the United States.

The clash of positions and viewpoints emphasized the crisis facing the UN as an authoritative arbiter of international conflicts. It put in question the organization's capability to curb the unilateral actions of its members. The core issue it brought forth was whether the UN would remain a toothless tiger in resolving conflicts through diplomatic means.

For the Philippines, which supported the US war on Iraq, it faces a dilemma on whether, as a small nation, it can entrust its own security to the United Nations or the United States.

Culprits in the cloister

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

SOME weeks ago, a Catholic cleric convicted of molesting 150 youths during his watch at an American parish was strangled to death by a fellow convict. The killer was outraged by the priest's acts and was waiting to wreak vengeance on him on behalf of his innocent victims.

The Catholic Church had earlier defrocked him and reportedly paid millions of dollars in damages to the boys he had molested, now grown up, who had decided to reveal his sexual abuses. One complaint created a domino effect that led to other accusations his superiors could not ignore. A thorough investigation caused his abject confession and eventual imprisonment and murder.

The Catholic Church in the United States has been rocked by similar scandals, most of which have established priestly shenanigans in the cloister. That's the bad news. The good news is that they have not been hushed up or whitewashed by the church hierarchy to protect its sacrosanct reputation. The priests were not let off by a mere recitation of the Act of Contrition.

The current rash of complaints of sexual harassment has deepened public concern over this offense. Where before they could only suffer in angry silence, many female employees are now boldly speaking up against the sexual abuses and demands of their male superiors. The victims are no longer intimidated by threats of their persecution, demotion or dismissal if they refuse to cooperate.

The present spate of sexual scandals brings to mind the case of Clarence Thomas, now a member of the US Supreme Court since 1991. His nomination to that tribunal sparked one of the most controversial confirmation hearings in the Senate and revealed many ugly details about the objections to his appointment.

After serving for a little over one year as a judge in the federal Court of Appeals, Thomas was appointed by President George Bush Sr. to the Supreme Court. There were many misgivings. His career as a trial lawyer and on the bench was undistinguished. He was clearly a poor substitute for the eminent Justice Thurgood Marshall, the brilliant advocate of Negro rights, who had decided to retire.

But as mediocre as his credentials were, the new appointee's most serious obstacle was the charge of sexual misconduct filed against him by Anita Hill, a law professor who had graduated from Yale. She had served as assistant to Thomas at the Office of Civil Rights in the Department of Education but suddenly left, confiding to her close friends that she did not like Thomas' behavior.

This reason, soon publicized, made her a reluctant witness at the confirmation hearings of Thomas, whom she accused of sexually harassing her on several occasions when she was his assistant. The details of his molestations titillated the nation and were splashed over the tabloids. Many people believed her, noting that she was no muck-raker or publicity hound. In the end, however, the Senate dismissed her charges and confirmed the President's appointment.

Thomas' confirmation was generally regarded as having been motivated by politics rather than the facts of the case. Hill had nothing to gain by her charges except to prevent an unworthy person from sitting on the highest tribunal. Her reputation is still intact, but the justice's name remains under a cloud.

Going back to the clergy, there was a report that hogged the headlines a few years ago of a priest from Mandaluyong, if I remember correctly, who was accused of some sexual indiscretion that, if true, should have caused his dismissal. The news was front-page material for some time and then suddenly disappeared and was soon forgotten. Some say Father Lothario was deported to another remote parish, where he is probably gallivanting again.

By contrast, it is reported that 34 priests have been suspended for alleged conduct unbecoming a priest. Earlier, a priest found to be maintaining his lover and their child confessed his sin and left his vocation.

But what about Bishop Teodoro Bacani, who suddenly left sometime ago in the wake of charges of sexual molestation filed against him by his secretary? In his departure message, he pleaded for understanding as if he was asking for forgiveness—that was the impression many people got. Then, as suddenly as he had left, he quietly came back and has reportedly resumed his priestly duties.

Many of the Catholic faithful expressed satisfaction over his return, which they saw as an affirmation of their trust in him as a holy man. They also regarded it as his implied exoneration from the accusation that he had taken liberties with his accuser, who had repulsed them and eventually resigned to protect her honor.

So what has happened to her formal complaint that was supposed to have been elevated to the Vatican for investigation and decision? There has been no news about whatever action has been taken by the Holy See on this serious matter, which affects the integrity of the Catholic Church in this only Christian country in Asia.

All I have heard so far are rumors and conjectures, not a clear decision on the charges against Bishop Bacani. He is entitled to the presumption of innocence, particularly because he is a man of the cloth, but that presumption is only disputable and may be rebutted by evidence to the contrary, if there is any.

One With You

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about a priest who made an announcement to his flock one Sunday morning. "I have bad news and good news. The bad news is that the church needs lots of money for repairs. The good news is that we have the money. It is in your pockets!"

* * *

The Gospel today (Mk 9, 38-42, 45, 47-48) speaks about unity and teamwork for all who belong to Christ. "For whoever is not against us is for us." Jesus reminds us today to broaden our attitudes and outlook and go beyond elitism, exclusivity and bias of any kind. Do we stress our differences instead of our commonalities? Do we perceive ourselves better or holier than the others? Do we build walls instead of bridges?

* * *

Perhaps we can pick up a lesson or two from this story about a little boy who had a different hair color from that of his other family members. His friends kept taunting him that he was adopted. One little girl came to his rescue saying "I know what being adopted means because I was also adopted. It simply means that you grew in your mommy's heart instead of in her tummy." Come to think of it, aren't we all adopted sons and daughters of God? Aren't we all sinners who have been redeemed by the Son? Instead of boxing out one another, why don't we work together, be grateful to God together and help each other?

* * *

Instead of putting down one another, why don't we build up one another? Jesus warns us today about using and abusing one another, especially the little ones and the less fortunate in our midst. Ask yourself today: Have I used or abused people for my gain and pleasure? Have I stepped on people on my way up, or worse, have I eliminated people who were blocking my road to power, riches, pleasure and glory? Jesus reminds us today that it would be better for such a person to have a millstone put around his neck and thrown into the sea!

* * *

"I look forward to being older when what I look like becomes less and less an issue, and what I am is the point" (Susan Sarandon). This message should remind us that life is not at all a matter of looks. It's unbelievable how much money, time and effort people actually spend just to look better and continue to look good! Listen to Jesus talking today about cutting one's hand and feet and plucking out one's eye, if these cause one to sin. Sad that people are so obsessed with looking good instead of simply being good. *Gets mo?*

* * *

Talking about being older, I will turn 50 this Oct. 1. Looking back, I can't help but be grateful. Unworthy as I am, God blessed me with the gift of priesthood. There have been so many touching and meaningful moments in my life just because I am a priest. Also, I have encountered so many people who have been very helpful and supportive to me and my mission, just because I am a priest. I, as Jerry, and as Father Jerry acknowledge this all, with deep humility and gratitude. At 50, all I can say is: That's as good as it gets! Beyond 50, what I am saying is: the best years of life are still up ahead! Maybe not so much in terms of doing but in terms of being, we all must keep believing that the best is yet to come! Amen!

* * *

All is set for the canonization of Blessed Arnold Janssen and Joseph Freinademetz on Oct. 5. What people seem to forget is that the powerful intercession of our saints does not stop with the miracles needed for their canonization. I have met many people who have recently been healed or helped by Blessed Arnold Janssen. Yesterday I met Sheryl Ann Quito, 25 years old, who has been an epileptic for 13 years. It was in Meralco Theater where she heard of Blessed Arnold from Pamela Avellanosa, herself a recipient of a miraculous cure from Blessed Arnold last April 13, Palm Sunday. I remember that there was a commotion because somebody collapsed at the back during my Mass, and I asked all the people, a thousand or so to stretch forth their hands over her in prayer. Sheryl Ann told me that soon after that the whole family started praying the Novena for the Sick to Blessed Arnold going to the Pink Sisters at Hemady St. every day. Now, her EEG is normal. She knows a miracle had happened. She wants to let the world know that miracles can and still happen. (For those who wish to have Blessed Arnold Janssen's booklet for the sick, or better still, for those who want to help reprint the novena, please call the Mission Office at Tel. Nos. 7217457 and 4147044.

* * *

This October's "Walk with God to Manaoag" will be on Oct. 25, instead of Oct. 4. Join us in this pilgrimage on foot from Urdaneta Cathedral starting 6 a.m. and ending with a Holy Mass at the Shrine of our Lady of Manaoag. Let us offer this little sacrifice in gratitude for the Blessed Mother's intercession, and to ask her help in all our needs, especially for our country, particularly for the gift of good leaders in our land.

* * *

A Moment with the Lord

Lord, help me to be one with you, and with my brothers and sisters, in You. Amen

* * *

Comments to jorbos@manila-online.net

Bush and the Bells of Balangiga

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

IN CHEYENNE, Wyoming, a pair of brass church bells can be found kept at Warren Air Force Base. Not too many people in the United States or in our own country know about these bells. But they are very much a part of Philippine history, having been taken from the town of Balangiga in Samar after an event which took place exactly 102 years ago today.

To appreciate the significance of the Balangiga bells, it is necessary to go back to the beginning of the 20th century as America was carrying out President William McKinley's policy of "benevolent assimilation" over the Philippine Islands which had been ceded by Spain as part of the Treaty of Paris, thus ending the Spanish-American War.

Even with the capture of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Filipino resistance to American occupation continued in many parts of the country. In fact, guerrilla activities increased forcing the United States to bring in reinforcements and raising its troop level to some 70,000 soldiers. Compare this with the 140,000 US troops in Iraq, now facing guerrilla warfare.

The island of Samar, third-largest in the Philippines, was one of the hotbeds of guerrilla action and in a bid to establish greater control over the island, Maj. Gen. Adna Chaffee, Army commander of the Division of the Philippines, called for the establishment of more garrisons in the province. And so on Aug. 11, 1901, 74 officers and men of Company "C," Ninth US Infantry, disembarked from the US Army transport "Liscombe," in the harbor of Balangiga, a small town in the southern end of Samar.

The company commander was Capt. Thomas W. Connell, a tall West Pointer in his late 20s who served in Cuba and in China during the Boxer Rebellion. He spoke Spanish and was "most unusual as a military man of that era because he opposed the prevalent Army opinion that bayonet rule was the only answer in governing the Philippines." He believed in McKinley's "benevolent assimilation" policy and in the mission of civilizing and Christianizing the native.

The second-in-command was 1st Lt. Bumpus who, on seeing the natives in Balangiga, is reported to have laughed and said, "Boys, we're in Gooland for sure now!" The soldiers were regular Army, since the volunteer groups who first came to the Islands in 1899 had already been sent home. Most of the young men were farm boys who had run away from home for travel or adventure. Others were immigrants who spoke broken English.

The party was met by a delegation of town officials who offered the Americans the use of the municipal building as well as two rooms of the Church convent.

Several weeks after the arrival of the Americans, a secret meeting was held at the house of the town mayor. It was decided that a surprise attack would be carried out on a Sunday morning at around breakfast time. Some 500 men, divided in seven groups, would compose the attacking forces. One-third of them would be in women's clothes, posing as churchgoers.

* * *

On Sunday morning, Sept. 28, 1901, just as the troops were having breakfast, Police Chief Pedro Sanchez walked over to one of the US billets, grabbed a sentry's rifle and at the same time yelled out the signal for the attack to begin.

Immediately, the church bells started to ring continuously, while conch shells whistled loudly from the surrounding hills. The Church doors burst open, releasing a frightening mob of angry, screaming natives, brandishing sharp bolos and other improvised weapons such as, picks and shovels. It was combat at close quarters; *bolos* against Krag rifles. In the attack on the convent, the American officers were hacked to death on their beds. Lt. Bumpus was struck on the bridge of his nose so that the lower part of his face was chopped off. Capt. Connell who was saying his prayers, was hit in the back and stabbed many times all over his body.

An hour later, the town plaza was a bloody mess with cracked skulls and human entrails all over the place. Of the 74 men of Company "C," 36 would survive the massacre. Of these, 30 were wounded, most of them seriously. Ten would later die from their wounds, leaving only 26 of the original group.

Reprisal was swift in coming. First on the scene was Company "G," also of the Ninth Infantry. The force entered Balangiga, firing away with Gatling machine guns and light cannon. Twenty natives, captured at the edge of the town, were brought to the plaza and executed. The bodies were then doused with kerosene and set afire. All houses still standing were torched to the ground.

Less than a month after the Balangiga massacre, a separate command—the Sixth Separate Brigade—was formed to handle the Samar "problem." The Brigade was headed by Brig. Gen. Jacob Smith. Under Smith was a Marine Battalion led by Maj. L. W. Waller, which was tasked to clean up the southern portion of Samar. In issuing orders to Waller, Gen. Smith declared, "I want no prisoners. I wish you to kill and burn, the more you kill and burn the better you will please me." His handwritten instructions were, "the interior of Samar must be made a howling wilderness." Waller later acquired the reputation as the "Butcher of Samar," and that ultimately cost him the post of Marine Corps Commandant.

* * *

Among the gifts that President Bush may have with him on his coming visit to the Philippines, none will be better appreciated than the Bells of Balangiga.

Impeachment is serious business

COMMENTARY

Raul J. Palabrica

TIME is running out on the impeachment complaint filed by former President Estrada against eight justices of the Supreme Court. The complaint stems from their decision to allow then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to take over the presidency from Estrada in January 2001.

The judiciary committee of the House of Representatives has yet to decide on whether the complaint should be given due course or dismissed for lack of merit. The House has two months from Oct. 6, when it will resume its sessions, to act on the complaint before it goes on recess again for the holiday season.

Theoretically, after the Christmas break, the congressmen should return to work. But with the May 2004 elections just around the corner, most of them are expected to skip their legislative duties to concentrate on their reelection bids or other political plans.

The delay in the resolution of Estrada's complaint is a strong indication that majority of the congressmen entertain serious doubts about its merit. This is in sharp contrast to their swift action in the impeachment case filed against Estrada in 2000 and against Commission on Elections Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco last year. The latter complaint was dismissed for insufficiency of evidence.

But even before the impeachment raps against the justices have gone past first base, another resolution is making the rounds of the House for the impeachment of Senior Associate Justice Josue Bellosillo who is also one of the justices named in Estrada's complaint.

Administrative case

For dismissing an earlier complaint for disbarment of a lawyer, Bellosillo has been accused of "obstruction of justice and/or culpable violation of the Constitution." The private complainant claims the said lawyer notarized several documents without the authority to act as notary public and should therefore be stripped of his license to practice the legal profession.

The complainant also denounced Bellosillo for interfering in the work of a trial court judge and undue delay in deciding the cases assigned to him by the tribunal.

Stripped of its verbiage, the one-inch thick complaint primarily revolves around a decision that Bellosillo and the members of the court division he heads rendered in a disbarment case. In effect, he is being held personally liable for the collective action of five justices.

Why the complainant zeroed in on Bellosillo and did not include his alleged "co-conspirators" in the impeachment complaint is a big question mark. With Bellosillo set to retire in November this year, the motive behind the filing of the complaint becomes suspect.

This complaint is no different from the charges that some lawyers file when judges render decisions that are adverse to their clients. To save face before their disgruntled clients (and, of course, to justify their attorney's fees), these lawyers accuse the judges of "knowingly rendering an unjust judgment" or violating the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Law.

The subtle implication of this action is to blame His Honor for the loss of the case, not the weakness of the losing party's evidence or the incompetence of the lawyer who handled the case. Just like politicians who claim to have been cheated whenever they lose election contests.

Grounds

The impeachment provision of the Constitution is aimed at providing the citizenry with a mechanism to make key government officials accountable for their actions. The process applies exclusively to the president, vice president, members of the Supreme Court, members of constitutional commissions and the Ombudsman.

The grounds for impeachment are limited to culpable violation of the Constitution, treason, bribery, graft and corruption, other high crimes and betrayal of public trust. At least one-third of the congressmen have to endorse an impeachment complaint before it can be sent to the Senate for trial.

These conditions were laid down to underscore the seriousness of the impeachment process. It is not something that is invoked at the drop of a hat or because a congressman does not, for one reason or another, like the face of an impeachable official. Neither is it meant to be a weapon for political vendetta or to show who's boss in this part of town.

The procedure should be used only when it is clear that the official concerned has consciously and willfully violated the oath he took upon his assuming office. It is resorted to when all other means of making an impeachable official accountable for his acts fails. Besides, Congress has better use of its limited time and resources than to investigate complaints that are better left to the other government agencies to handle and resolve.

Caution

This should not be taken to mean, however, that the justices should be held to standards of accountability lower than that required of other impeachable officials. They are also human beings who can commit mistakes in the performance of their duties and responsibilities.

But in endorsing impeachment complaints against members of the tribunal, the congressmen must make sure that they are not unwittingly used by some parties to get back at the justices who may have rendered decisions that are adverse to their interests. It is well to remember that the impeachment process is not part of the judicial system. Legal disputes should be kept within the confines of the courts and resolved in accordance with existing procedures.

Neither should the impeachment mechanism be allowed to be used as a "sword of Damocles" over the justices to pressure them into resolving cases pending before them in accordance with the wishes of a litigant. Some lawyers have a nasty habit of insinuating in their pleadings that they will not hesitate to seek relief elsewhere (read: file impeachment charges) if the justices do not rule in their favor.

The impeachment process risks losing its true meaning and purpose if it is trivialized or used for purposes other than for which it is provided for in the Constitution. Personal piques, unfulfilled expectations and deflated egos are not grounds for impeachment.

From reporter to icon

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I COULDN'T help wondering, at the height of the "KJ" controversy, how my cousin Lourdes, known far and wide as Inday Badiday, would have handled the story.

Known as the "Queen of Intrigue" through much of her career covering—and sometimes creating—show business news, would Inday have tried to milk it for all it's worth, sniffing out the sordid details even as she cautioned the parties involved with her patented warning: "Careful"?

I'm sure she would have tried to get the facts, or the closest approximation of facts, straight from the sources, namely Joey Marquez and Kris Aquino. When she was still doing her daily radio show on dzMM, she would often proudly announce that in her show, they never asserted a fact until they verified it and as much as possible from the people involved. And show-biz celebrities were more than willing to oblige her, knowing she would at the least be fair.

Being the pioneer of the television entertainment talk show in these parts, Inday may seem a strange exemplar of responsible journalism. But in her field, she did as much as anyone else could to raise standards of credibility and, yes, dignity. Of course, she was as much entertainer as reporter. She had an ear for the juicy detail, and knew what tidbits of information would whet the audience's curiosity and keep them glued to their radio and TV sets. And she wasn't above creating and relentlessly rooting for love teams, though I often suspected her loyalties on this score were as much personal as professional.

* * *

INDAY'S gift to the industry that took her to its heart and catapulted her to fame was her own earnest love for it. She began as a young fan skipping classes to hang out in radio stations in hopes of spotting a celebrity or star. Signed on as a radio reporter then host, she rode the wave of adulation that greeted Nora Aunor, the diminutive singer and actress who broke the *mestiza* stranglehold on stardom and zoomed to superstardom, with Inday and cohorts like Ike Lozada and German Moreno following in her wake.

But what secured Inday's place in entertainment history was her debut as host of the first local TV talk show devoted entirely to entertainment. The show's format, featuring a panel of entertainment writers on one side confronting a panel of celebrity guests on the other, made for tense face-offs and sometimes risqué and reckless moments from the unpredictable movie press. In the middle sat Inday, a benevolent referee, reining in the more provocative scribes, and fishing out more honest answers from the entertainers beyond their pre-packaged public relations responses.

Inday's career and fortunes would wax and wane with the fads and fancies of a volatile industry. But surely, it must have warmed her fan's heart to realize that near the end she had managed to transform herself into an icon much like her show-biz idols, respected and beloved by both fans and artists themselves. She lived her life well and fully, and no one could ask more from life than that.

* * *

NEARLY 30 years ago, a group of young women from the University of Sto. Tomas went to work for the Archdiocese of Manila's just-created "Media Office." The women worked under Felix Bautista, a journalism professor at the university who had taken on the role as publicist for the then newly-installed Archbishop Jaime Sin, and so they came to be known as "Felix's Angels," though they called themselves the "Media Girls."

Though Bautista headed the Media Office, technically their "boss" was the Archbishop, and a benevolent and fatherly boss was he. Often, he would host lunch for Bautista and his "angels" at Villa San Miguel, introducing the young women to social niceties like four-course meals, aperitifs, coffee spiked with brandy and even a round of margaritas in the Villa's kitchen, prepared by no less than Msgr. Gene Velarde, at the time one of the Archbishop's aides. (The other was Msgr. Gabby Reyes, now Bishop of Antipolo.)

Archbishop Sin, whose elevation to Cardinal would be one of the first major challenges the Media Office faced, would go on to play a major role in the milestones of the Media Girls' lives, from presiding at their weddings, baptizing their children, and these days, blessing their unions as they mark landmark anniversaries.

* * *

ONE image that stands out from those days was of the young Cardinal relaxing in the garden of the Villa one late afternoon, just as the van carrying the Media contingent drove up. He was dressed in a simple, unadorned soutana, the white habit that priests wear. He smiled as he spotted the van approaching, and the moment seemed to underscore the fact that beneath the trappings of his office, the Cardinal was just a simple, humble cleric thrust into the most challenging and difficult of circumstances.

The rest of the country may know the Cardinal as the instigator of two Edsa uprisings and the voice of the church in matters political. But up close and personal, his simplicity shines through, as well as his openness to others.

Recently, the Media Girls gathered at Villa San Miguel to call on the Cardinal. They had waited until all the hoopla surrounding his 75th birthday had passed, knowing that it was in the quiet days that followed, especially after the announcement of the Vatican's acceptance of his offer of retirement, that he would most appreciate the company of friends.

The meeting was brief owing to the Cardinal's frail health, but even after all those years, he remembered each of them and inquired caringly of their work and families. For their part, the Media Girls were brought back to their youth and to the events that shaped their womanhood. It was a good day.

The presidency in our time

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THE DEBATE as to whether we need a change in system rather than a change in leaders is a sterile one. The shift to a parliamentary, or federal, or unicameral system will not mean anything if not accompanied by changes in the distribution of power, wealth and opportunity across social classes.

The pressures toward a radical re-ordering of our society have never been stronger than they are today. These are reflected not only in the relentless political activity that seems to plague our present national life, but also in the kind of expectations that our people carry in their choices for the presidency.

The most urgent of these expectations come from the 70 percent of our population demanding immediate relief from economic insecurity, oppression and cultural exclusion. The word that summarizes these conditions is poverty, except that in the hands of policymakers the term has been so stripped of meaning that charity alone seems sufficient to end it.

They are the "*masa*" who turn to movie actors and mass media personalities for leadership. Not simply because they know them by name, but because, rightly or wrongly, they see in them the qualities that dissolve the remoteness of the powerful. They trust them implicitly because they speak their language, they belong to a world they know and they show more than a passing interest in their problems.

Do not ask them about competence or qualification. These are terms that are unfamiliar to them. As far as they are concerned, what is important is that we choose good leaders who personify simple decency, humility, courage and compassion. They may not themselves be knowledgeable, but they will know how to recruit experts who will run the day-to-day affairs of society. To them good leaders are measured by the quality of their judgment, not by the length of formal education or previous experience in government.

We often speak of the *masa* as the sector in most need of political education. We believe their perspective to be narrow and limited and unsuitable to the demands of a fast-changing world. We seek to raise their consciousness so they can use the power of their votes to elect competent leaders who can lift them from their present condition. We forget that, unsophisticated though they may be, their preferences are founded on a rationality that is not necessarily inferior to that of the country's more educated voters.

They have seen how their lives have become more impoverished under the leadership of modern educated leaders who paint visions of a prosperous future while remaining blind to the misery of the many. They do not trust them. They do not see themselves as participants in the economic growth of which these types of leaders speak. To them, the issue is simple—the country needs a president who cares for those who are brutally left behind by so-called development, a government that enforces a clear preferential option for the poor. This logic, rooted in the experience of an economic growth without jobs, cannot be assailed. To be oblivious of the cumulative stresses to which the poor in our society are subjected is to bring the nation closer to the edge of a violent conflict from which it may not recover.

Unfortunately the rest of our people do not see the situation in these terms. They see poverty as a chronic economic ailment requiring long-term solutions. They see it ultimately as the consequence not of unjust social arrangements but of a general failure of governance, a failure to define clear plans and mobilize resources, and to enforce the law. To them, incompetence and corruption are the key problems of our time. These are the principal impediments to economic recovery. The lack of development causes poverty, and poverty, in turn, breeds dependence, political patronage, crime and corruption.

Not surprisingly, this perspective is generally held by the middle and upper classes of our society. They see the poor as mired in their own culture of despair and dependence, permanently disabled from taking the first step toward improving their lives even when given the opportunity to do so. They fail to see that this culture of poverty is not an endowment but is itself a symptom of the structural realities of economic marginalization and social exclusion, which have worsened with globalization.

These two perspectives are sometimes referred to as the populist and the modernist. They represent rough images of the burdens of the presidency in our time. They are conceptually not hospitable to one another, but they need not clash. A pro-poor president need not be corrupt and incompetent. And a modernist president, with a clear bias for efficiency and good governance, need not be anti-poor.

The problem arises when a pro-poor bias is instantly equated with patronage politics and an inclination to use public funds to buy popularity. It also arises when a modernist president interprets her mandate to mean defending markets rather than caring for a nation. But why can't social justice be the overriding goal of a modernizing presidency? Where disparities in opportunity are so large as to practically exclude the great majority of the population from any meaningful participation in the nation's life, one would think the first order of the day is to narrow this gap in the quickest way possible as a condition for unifying the nation.

If this is what being populist means, then I say no president in our time can succeed without being populist.

* * *

Comments to randolf@pacific.net.ph

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

TALK *of the* TOWN

Are there too many Filipinos?

WITH 82 million people, the Philippines is the 12th most populous nation in the world after China, India, the United States, Indonesia, Brazil, Pakistan, Russia, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Japan and Mexico.

At the current population growth rate, some 2 million babies are born every year in the land of Jose Velarde, Jose Pidal, Kris Aquino and Mang Pandoy, or roughly equivalent to all the residents of Quezon City, the country's most populous city.

In about 10 years, the country's population is projected to reach the 100-million mark.

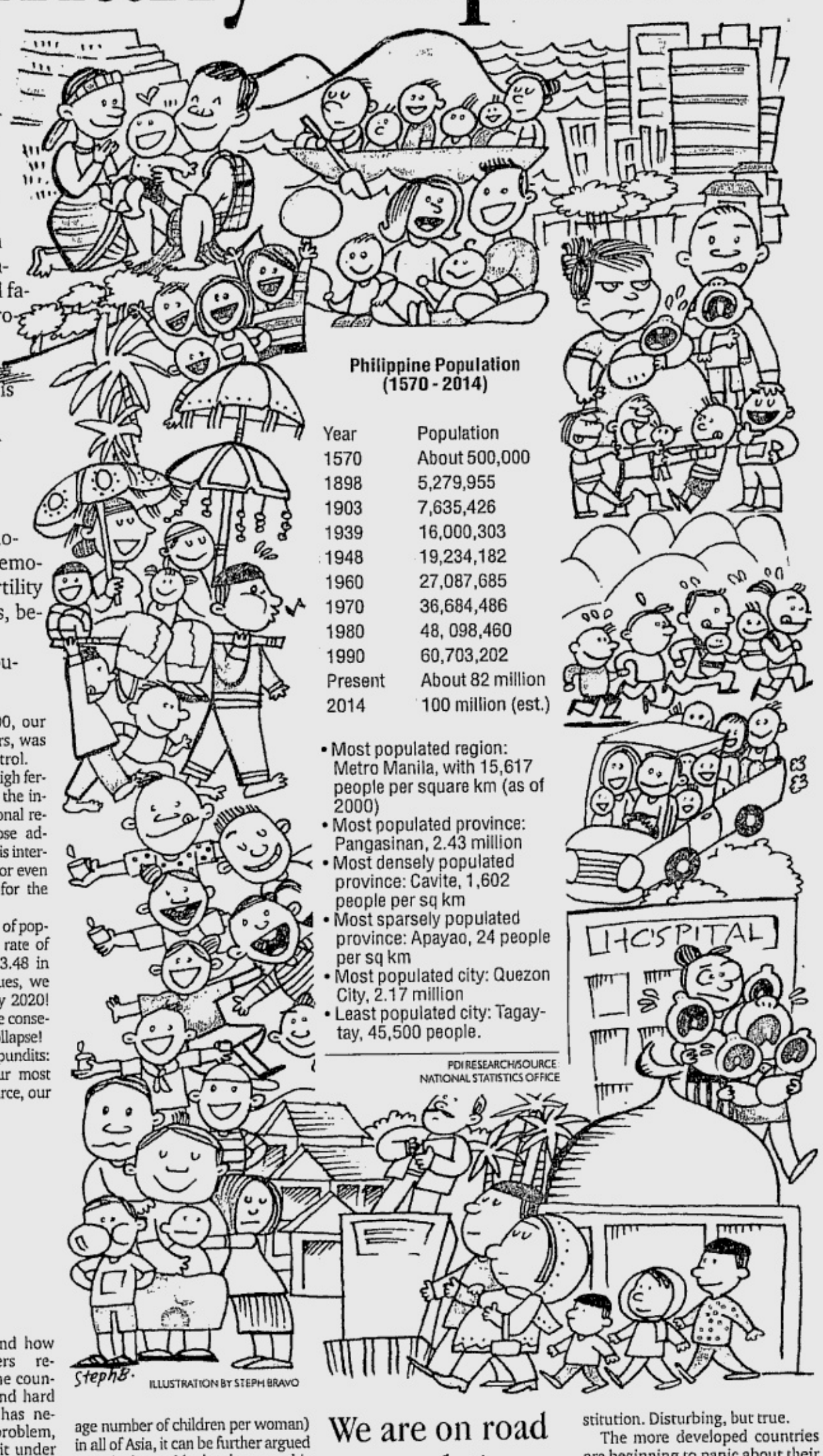
Despite the growing population, the government's population policy has taken a conservative turn. President Macapagal-Arroyo has declared that her administration's reproductive health services will focus on natural family planning, a method favored by the Catholic Church. As a result, the Department of Health no longer promotes the pill, IUD, and condom.

The business community and former Senate President Jovito Salonga are asking Ms Macapagal to summon the political will to carry out a population policy that is not influenced by the Church.

"We don't have sufficient food and shelter for our poor people, especially in the urban areas. The results are the rising tide of criminality, a poor educational system, lopsided development, a yawning gap between the few rich and the very poor," Salonga said.

But Catholic groups claim that the real crisis is not overpopulation but demographic collapse. One group claims that the country is already on the road to demographic collapse even without government population control because total fertility rate, the number of children per woman, is projected to drop to 2.05 in 10 years, below the replacement rate of 2.1.

With the 2004 elections coming, the President may not be inclined to pursue a population policy that goes against the wishes of the Church.



Philippine Population (1570 - 2014)

Year	Population
1570	About 500,000
1898	5,279,955
1903	7,635,426
1939	16,000,303
1948	19,234,182
1960	27,087,685
1970	36,684,486
1980	48, 098,460
1990	60,703,202
Present	About 82 million
2014	100 million (est.)

- Most populated region: Metro Manila, with 15,617 people per square km (as of 2000)
- Most populated province: Pangasinan, 2.43 million
- Most densely populated province: Cavite, 1,602 people per sq km
- Most sparsely populated province: Apayao, 24 people per sq km
- Most populated city: Quezon City, 2.17 million
- Least populated city: Tagaytay, 45,500 people.

PDI RESEARCH/SOURCE: NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

I feel like I'm on the Titanic

By Oscar Lopez
Chair, Lopez Group of Companies

Population is an issue that is close to my heart. While population growth rate in the Philippines has slowed down the past few years, the decrease has not been as significant as those in other countries.

As a result, the country doubled its population from 36.5 million in 1970 to 75.6 million in 2000. If the Philippines cannot reduce its population growth rate of 2.36 percent, there will be an estimated 150 million Filipinos in 20 years time. Where are we going to put all those additional millions? We are all going to be on top of one another and on top of trees...assuming there will still be trees at that time. This is no longer just a religious problem. It will be a problem of physical survival.

As a highlight, total fertility rate (TFR) declined slightly from 4.1 to 3.7 children between 1991 and 1996 and was expected to go down further to 3.2 in 2002.

However, this figure of 3.2 is still much higher than those of other countries such as Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia, which are all now in the category of replacement fertility of 2.2 children per woman.

Poverty

Needless to say, a relatively high population growth rate puts much greater demands, starting with the bare necessities of life, i.e., food, clothing, shelter and education. Compounding the situation, a lethargic economic growth, which the Philippines exhibited over the past years, has not significantly helped in poverty alleviation.

This is clearly a major issue that must be adequately attended to, not in the future, but right now. It is clear that the Philippines can learn from the experiences and successes of other countries. It is fortunate that we are in Thailand, which has successfully tackled the population growth issue, thanks to the efforts of Senator Mechai, whose work in this area is impressive and laudable. Since this conference is looking at collaboration, this then can be a good area and challenge for inter-country tri-sectoral collaboration.

Senator Mechai says he is willing to help, but obviously only from the sidelines since it is not his problem. It is still the Filipino's responsibility to solve this problem in his country.

No debate

This is a problem, which requires the efforts of all sectors of our society, government, civil society, the business sector, as well as the Church itself. And yet there seems to be a conspiracy of silence about this issue in the Philippines today. There is no public discussion or debate about this issue. There is no outcry that unless we reverse our course, the country could be headed toward a demographic disaster.

We have all seen the movie, "Titanic." Well, I feel like I am on the Titanic right now. I just do not know how far we are from that fateful iceberg that will crush and sink our ship.

(Excerpts from a speech Lopez delivered at the Asian Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility on Sept. 18 in Bangkok, Thailand)

The family is under attack

By Edgardo Sorreta
Member, Couples for Christ

The INQUIRER reported on March 13, 2002 "No population explosion coming after all, says UN." Nevertheless, many sectors in our society still warn of a demographic disaster, advocating population control as the solution to our country's ills. Sadly, they fail or refuse to see the real crisis afflicting the 1st World today—not overpopulation but demographic collapse!

The 1960s saw the beginning of a gradual decline in the number of children being born in developed countries. To enjoy sex and avoid pregnancy, their women used artificial contraception, including abortion. Forty years hence, these countries realized too late that when they hit the replacement level of two children per woman, the bottom inexorably fell out. Countries like Spain, Italy, Germany, US and Japan, are now below replacement!

The never-ending search for fun opened up a whole can of worms that is even more devastating than poverty. Despite their wealth, they now pay the price of a "contraceptive mentality," which looks at children as hindrances to the 'good life.'

Globalization

We see their frantic efforts to address these consequences: globalization to augment shrinking markets; overseas factories to compensate for their aging workforce; extension of retirement age to salvage their collapsing Social Security System; demand for nurses/caregivers for their aged; and teachers for their young which they dislike to teach themselves.

But worse than these is the degradation of morality due to hedonistic values that view sex merely as something to be had and enjoyed "safely," free from any responsibility. Consequently, there's so much promiscuity, divorce, homosexual relationships, AIDS, and greed.

We are all too familiar with these evils beginning to afflict Philippine society today. Family, the environment that should nurture and educate children, is under attack, and too many are broken irreparably!

This, to me, is the greatest threat of all, and no amount of economic prosperity can ever justify it. I'd rather be poor but have a loving family than to have everything in the world but an empty house and a broken home.

This is not to say that we can't have both, but when forced to choose, the family cannot be sacrificed for prosperity. These are the bitter lessons of rich countries like the Netherlands and Japan, having the highest incidence of suicide.

As for the Philippines, in a 1974 document called NSSM 200, our country, among many others, was targeted for population control.

It was perceived that our high fertility rates "are damaging to the internal stability and international relations of countries in whose advancement the United States is interested, thus creating political or even national security problems for the United States."

The rest is history. Because of population control, our fertility rate of 6.5 in 1960 was down to 3.48 in 2000. As this trend continues, we will hit replacement level by 2020! Then shall we feel the terrible consequences of a demographic collapse!

I ask these population pundits: "How will we replenish our most valuable, but depleted resource, our people?"

Addressing population is a must

By Ernesto M. Pernia
Economist

The issue of why and how population matters remains crucial for the country. Given its soft State and hard Church, the Philippines has neglected the population problem, practically just sweeping it under the rug. Consequently, it now finds itself virtually alone among middle-income developing countries as not having made any significant demographic transition.

And it finds itself having to debate an issue that is passé for most Asian developing countries, including such less developed countries as Bangladesh and India.

The single most important challenge for the Philippines has been, and continues to be, high poverty rate. Meeting this challenge has been a tall order, given the low and erratic growth rates of the economy for the past two to three decades.

In other East and Southeast Asian economies, sharp reductions in poverty have occurred as a consequence of rapid and sustained growth, attributable to sound economic policies coupled with strong population policy. These countries have been benefiting from a "demographic bonus" resulting from a greater share of workers (population aged 15-64) relative to young dependents (ages 0-14), while the Philippines continues to be burdened by a "demographic onus" (large share of young dependents relative to workers).

Income Distribution

Research on a number of Asian developing countries reveals that economic growth is key to poverty reduction. But poverty reduction could be further hastened by addressing other factors that improve the well-being of the poor via improved income distribution. Among the critical factors are rural infrastructure, human capital investment, agricultural price incentives, and agrarian reform.

In the Philippines, which has among the highest fertility (or average number of children per woman) in all of Asia, it can be further argued that dealing with the demographic factor will have a direct positive effect on the poor's welfare apart from the indirect effect via economic growth. The lack of a clear and consistent population policy starkly sets the Philippines apart from the rest of Asia, and partly explains its anemic economic growth and persistent mass poverty.

Counterargument

Some observers would, of course, point to problems of poor governance and corruption, or to shocks from globalization as the culprit. The counterargument, however, is that these problems have also beset the other Asian economies. And so the question remains: why have they consistently performed better than the Philippines?

The country's average per capita income and labor productivity (average output per worker) today are at the same levels as in the early 1980s. Why is this so? Population does matter. It matters to the question whether we will remain in a low-level equilibrium trap or get out of it.

A low-level equilibrium trap simply means a cycle of low economic growth, high unemployment, low productivity, persistent poverty, depleting human capital, high fertility, low savings and investment, feeding back into low economic growth, high unemployment, low productivity, poverty, and so on and so forth.

A clear and consistent population policy, matched by an adequately funded action program, is needed to break this vicious cycle.

(Pernia is Lead Economist at the Asian Development Bank. He contributed this piece in his personal capacity.)

We are on road to population collapse

By Rosie Luistro
President,
Alliance for the Family Foundation

Population-control advocates try to scare us by citing a 2.36 percent annual population growth rate. This is obsolete. Our growth rate is not 2.36 percent but 1.61 percent, according to the latest United Nations data.

We also need to be alerted to our declining total fertility rate (TFR), representing the number of children per woman. Our TFR is now at 2.93, and is projected to drop to only 2.05 within 10 years. However, the TFR required for a population to replace itself is 2.1. Therefore, even without government intervention through legislated population control, we are already on the road to demographic collapse—the opposite of what population-control advocates are suggesting.

Do we really want to discard our long-cherished family values or face extinction? Due to materialism and urbanization, the Philippines is developing a mindset favoring small families. With this mentality, artificial means of population control and disregard for the unborn child's right to life become increasingly acceptable. Our values begin to get distorted. Family relationships are weakened. If we don't fight to proclaim the truth, our generation may be blamed years from now for legalizing abortion, introducing divorce, same-sex unions and euthanasia, and violating our Constitution. Disturbing, but true.

The more developed countries are beginning to panic about their aging populations. Several countries fear they can no longer support their elderly and retired people because of their shrinking labor force. In these countries, the TFR is approaching zero. Why do we, on the other hand, still believe flawed arguments about economic development and population?

Better life

The truth is that despite the doubling of the world population in the last 50 years, there has been no mass starvation, since people have produced innovations to increase food production and improve the distribution of resources. The average person is healthier, wealthier and better fed today than in the past, and life expectancy has even increased.

Population expert Julian Simon said, "Robust economic growth rates and high population growth rates can be achieved and maintained by both developed and developing countries, given good governance, stable political institutions, young, robust, educated and numerous human capital."

We must also heed Pope John Paul II's warning in his Encyclical Letter: " (I)t is very alarming to see governments in many countries launching systematic campaigns against birth, contrary not only to the cultural and religious identity of the countries themselves, but also contrary to true development. It often happens that these campaigns are the result of pressure coming from abroad, and in some cases they are made a condition for the granting of financial and economic aid and assistance." Does this sound familiar?

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Aussie mining watchdog bares fraud by firm

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—A mining ombudsman of an Australian nongovernment organization claimed that an Australian mining firm used deceit to gain villagers' consent for its proposed large-scale mining operations in upland Kasibu town.

In a report, Ingrid MacDonald, mining ombudsman of the Oxfam Community Aid Abroad (OCAA) in Australia, said Climax Arimco Mining Corp. (CAMC) should "suspend all mine activities" and "ensure (that) its employees do not partake in corrupt practices" in its mining proposal in Barangay Didipio, Kasibu. The site is some 70 km from this capital town.

Oxfam, according to its website, is an "independent, not-for-profit, secular, community-based aid and development organization," which investigates the mining operations of Australian companies in poor countries like the Philippines.

Treasure

CAMC, which is 99 percent Australian-owned, has been attempting to stage mining activities since 1994 in Sitio Bacbacan after explorations discovered an estimated four million ounces of gold and 1.5 billion pounds of copper deposits said to be worth P121 billion.

Phil Nepomuceno, CAMC regional liaison manager, declined to comment on the Oxfam allegations.

"I cannot make a statement on that right now. I need to have first a copy of the (Oxfam) report," Nepomuceno told the INQUIRER.

Based on a field investigation Oxfam conducted last year, MacDonald, quoting interviews with villagers, said CAMC has not adequately consulted residents about the impact of the proposed mining project.

"The company did not present all available information at meetings or presented it in technical or appropriate language," she said in the OCAA's 2003 annual report released on Sept. 18.

She said documents that the company used as supposed proof of consent from residents had been falsified, such as an attendance sheet signed by villagers during one of the meetings in the village.

"(CAMC) had previously used force to access land for exploration activities," MacDonald said.

Fleeting

"The majority of the community favor long-term sustainable economic development through citrus crop plantations. They argue (that) citrus growing can be passed on to their children and grandchildren, whereas mine and its cash will be gone in a generation."

MacDonald supported the proposal for the conduct of an "independent plebiscite" on the proposed mining project to "respect the rights of the communities to prior, free and informed consent."

The Oxfam report was released a week after the Commission on Elections granted the petition of Didipio residents for the conduct of a plebiscite to determine whether villagers would allow large-scale mining activities in the area.

She said the CAMC should "commission independent social, environmental and gender impact assessments," and "agree not to pursue a slap-suit against the community for lost revenues." *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Gov blames stubborn folk for flood deaths

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—The deaths of nine persons in Sta. Catalina town, Negros Oriental could have been avoided had the residents heeded advice to move to higher grounds, said Gov. George Arnaiz.

The governor told reporters that he had issued an order directing local government units to relocate residents of riverbanks and other low-lying areas, only five days before the tragedy took place.

Arnaiz issued the order after the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) directed all provincial governments to order the relocation.

Then NDCC coordinator Angelo Reyes said local government units should ensure the safety of people by adopting a more proactive stance in managing disaster operations.

In August last year, flash floods also killed 12 persons in several barangays in Sta. Catalina after heavy rains spawned by tropical depression Milenyo hit southern Negros Oriental.

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT is exactly 503 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

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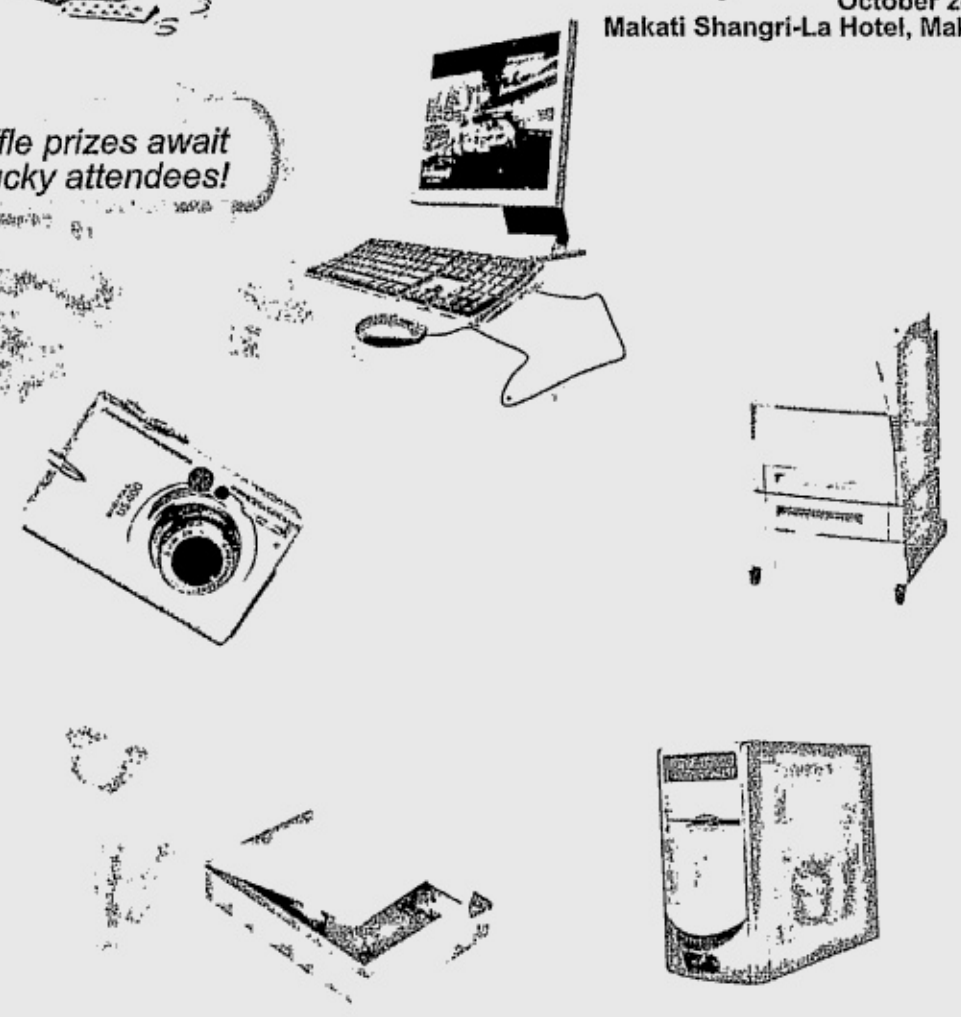

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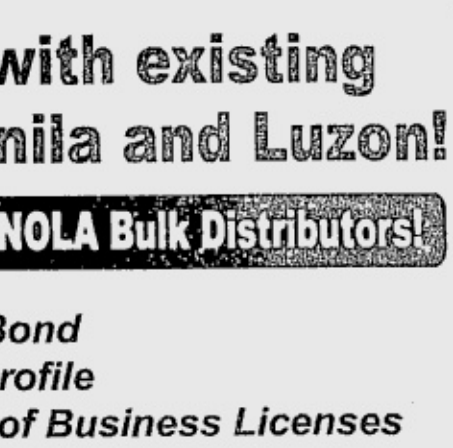

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NBI reports mountaineer's kin paid rebs

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) allegedly "extorted" P30 million from the family of a missing mountaineer in Antique province, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said in a report.

The mother of Leovic Gutierrez confirmed they gave P55,000 to the RPA-ABB to cover the expenses in locating one of the guides who accompanied her son's group.

The alleged extortion was contained in a letter of NBI director Reynaldo Wycoco to the office of Sen. Noli de Castro.

Leovic's family had asked De Castro's help in the investigation of the disappearance of the 22-year-old mountaineer.

Wycoco's letter cited a Sept. 3 report of the NBI in Western Visayas, which said that the guide was tortured to falsely confess that Leovic was killed and buried somewhere in the Madia-as mountain ranges with the involvement of his companions.

The RPA-ABB allegedly asked P30 million "for the confession taken from the local guide and for the exhumation (of Leovic's remains)," according to the report of former NBI regional director Carlos Saunar, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach RPA-ABB national commander Stephen Paduano, alias Carapali Lualhati, for comment. His mobile phone was unattended or out of coverage area.

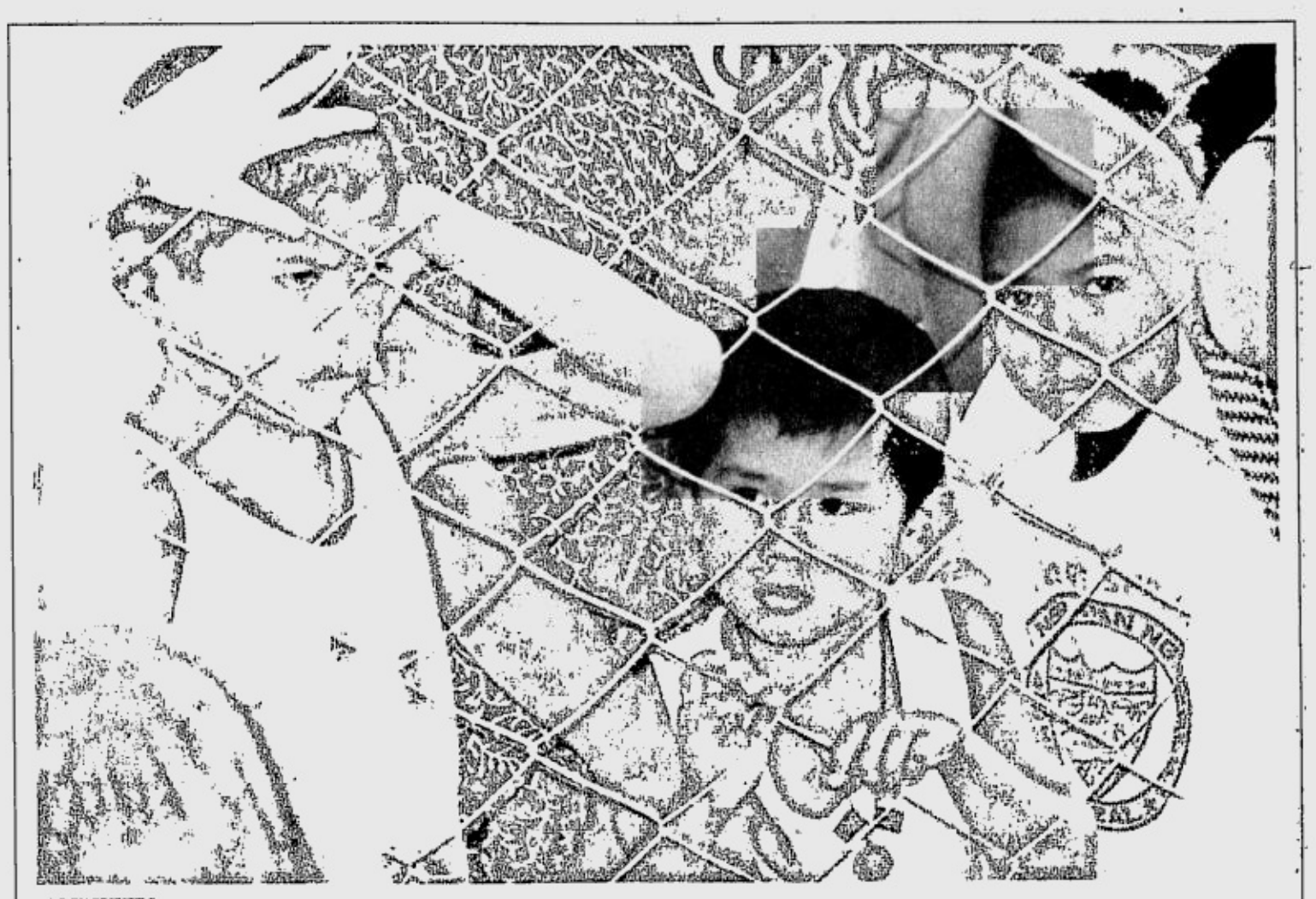
The mountaineer's mother, Marsha, said that her husband met with RPA-ABB leaders led by Arturo Tabara in the capital town of Kalibo and Boracay Island in Aklan last June after the RPA-ABB offered to help locate Leovic's remains.

Marsha said the RPA-ABB initially asked P30,000, which they said would be used to defray expenses in locating Josue Alejo, one of two guides that accompanied Leovic and his 11 companions in trekking the Madia-as mountain ranges on Feb. 16 in Culasi town in Antique.

She said her husband Romeo gave P5,000 during the meeting and she later deposited P25,000 to a bank account in Kalibo. The family gave another P25,000 when they again met with the RPA-ABB leaders in Kalibo in the latter part of June this time with Alejo.

In Kalibo, Alejo claimed he knew where Leovic's body was located. But Alejo recanted his statements after he arrived in Culasi town along with Leovic's parents and RPA-ABB leaders to supposedly exhume the remains. He accused the RPA-ABB of torturing him.

The New People's Army in Panay earlier issued a statement accusing the RPA-ABB of abducting Leovic to demand ransom for his release.



ANXIETY RODELIO RAMOS/CONTRIBUTOR

Children not too familiar with doctors and medical services appear to be anxious while awaiting their families' turn to avail themselves of free medical services during a medical mission sponsored by a group of medical technologists in Sitio Panay, Teresa, Rizal.

Comelec official accused of demanding bribe

COTABATO CITY—A field official of the Commission on Elections in North Cotabato has allegedly been asking village officials to pay him first before he would bring the Data Capturing Machines (DCMs) to their barangays.

Fr. Armand Dice, parish priest of Banisilan, North Cotabato, said village officials have alleged that Keram Sambuang, acting election officer, had been asking P10,000 per barangay before the machines, which are being used in the validation and registration of new voters, would be brought in.

"Is this allowed? Is this a Comelec ruling? Is it just?" Dice asked.

But Sambuang denied he was asking money from village officials.

"There is no truth to that claim, these are all allegations," he said.

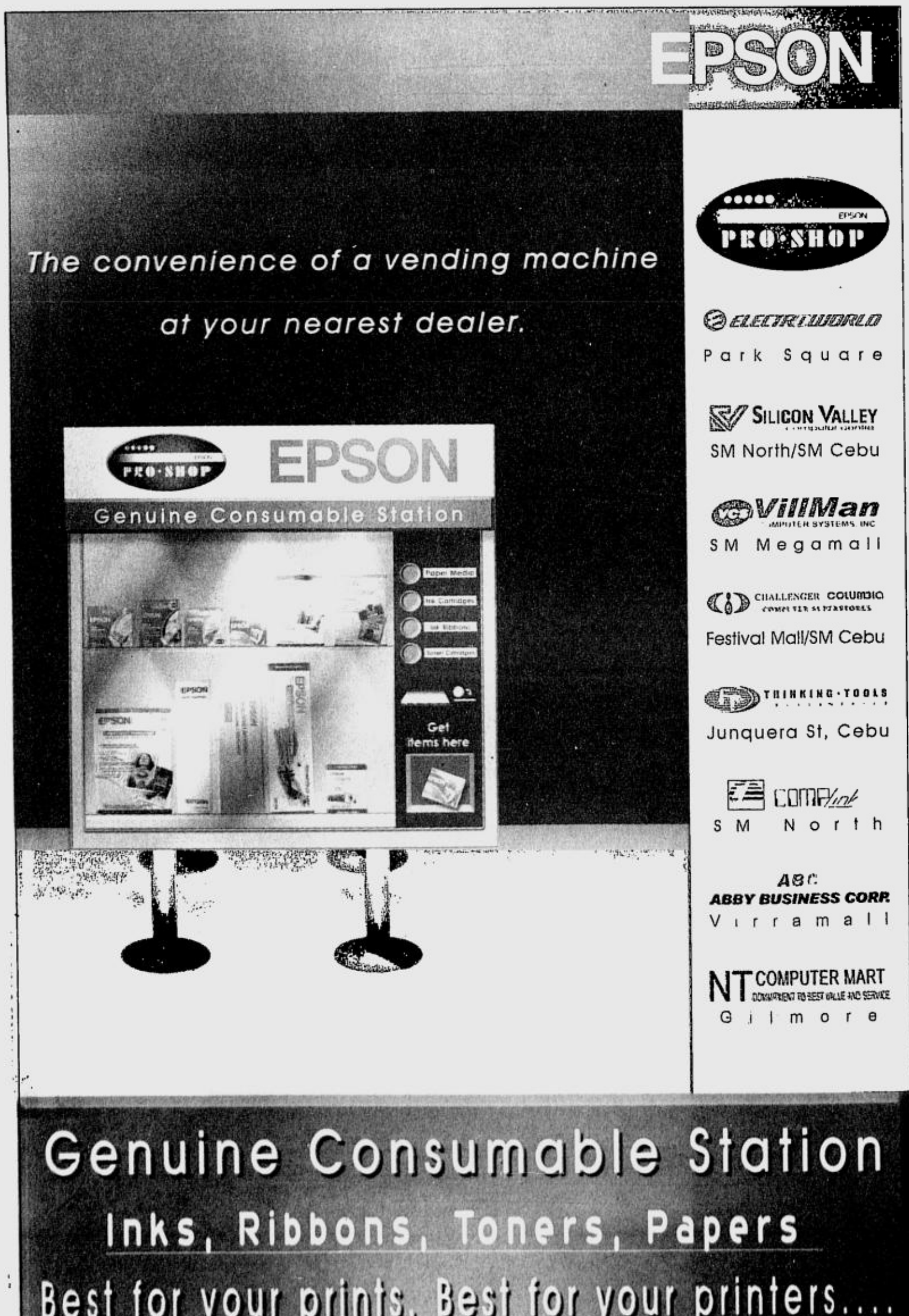
However, Dice said he has several witnesses "willing to testify that they paid P10,000 to be able to have the DCMs in their barangays."

Clarita Callar, Comelec regional director for Central Mindanao, said barangay officials do not have to shell out cash before their constituents could use the machines.

"I will summon the town Comelec official to explain and if warranted, penalize him," Callar said.

Callar said poll officials could always ask help from local government units but this should not involve money.

"Only physical help, not monetary," she said. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



MILF helps hunt down kidnapping groups

DAVAO CITY—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has launched a military operation against leaders of kidnap groups hiding in the vast Liguasan Marsh, a rebel spokesperson said.

The MILF maintains a sizeable force in some parts of the Liguasan, a wetland that straddles the provinces of Maguindanao, North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat.

But Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said their forces failed to arrest Tahir Alonto, Mayangkang Saguile or any of their men.

Alonto heads the notorious Pentagon kidnap gang, which the military said had merged with Saguile's forces.

"Our forces under commander Jack of the 105th Best Command has been scouring the Liguasan Marsh since Sunday but no arrest had been made so far," Kabalu told the INQUIRER.

He said information gathered by MILF forces indicated that Alonto and Mayangkang indeed hid in the Liguasan Marsh but that they avoided confrontation with the MILF.

"There are reports they are now hiding outside of the marsh," Kabalu said.

He said Saguile, formerly of the Mubarak kidnap gang, has reportedly been moving across some towns in Maguindanao and Sultan Kudarat to avoid MILF forces.

"As for Tahir, we receive reports he already ran (to) the boundaries of Davao del Sur, Sultan Kudarat and South Cotabato," Kabalu said. *Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Free shopping for poor

LEGAZPI CITY—At least 2,000 Albayanos belonging to the poorest of the poor shopped for free for the first time as the provincial government made available to them a special shopping center last week. Municipal and city social welfare officers and rural health units selected two members each from 1,000 identified poorest families who were entitled to shop up to P1,500 worth of goods. Grocery items from the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Philippine Geothermal Inc. and business establishments packed the Albay Astrodome which was made available for the shopping spree, said DSWD provincial officer Yolly Guanzon. Albay Gov. Al Francis Bichara co-sponsored the free "tiangge." *Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Rally vs UPLB head

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—A female protester suffered neck injuries, while some students and a university policeman suffered scratches and minor wounds during a protest action at the University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB) by students and teachers on Wednesday. The protesters were calling for the ouster of UPLB Chancellor Wilfredo David who, they alleged, had "committed abuse of authority in handling university affairs." The protesters' march was blocked and pushed back by members of the University Police Force (UPF), said Vida Verzosa, University Student Council chair. The UPF, however, claimed that the campus is a "no permit-no rally" area. The protester was hit in the neck causing her to fall down after which she was kicked in the abdominal area. The female protester lost consciousness. *Clarice Colting, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

2 rebels killed

CAMP OLA, Legazpi City—At least two members of the New People's Army (NPA) were killed in a clash with government troops in Masbate town on Thursday. Army Capt. Marlon Ocfemia, 901st Infantry Brigade spokesperson, said Army troops led by Lt. Emerson de Vera were conducting patrol operations together with the Balud police when they encountered 10 NPA rebels in Sitio Malawmaw, Barangay Sampad, Balud, Masbate. A five-minute gunfight ensued resulting in the death of two rebels. The rebels fled toward the hilly part of Barangay San Andres, leaving their dead companions, Ocfemia said. *Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Village head slain

CABANATUAN CITY—A barangay captain in Laur, Nueva Ecija, was shot and killed by two men while he was jogging in the village on Monday. Police identified the victim as Edgar Garcia, 39, of Barangay San Felipe. Reports said two men aboard a motorcycle attacked Garcia. Garcia was able to run and hide behind a house in the village but one of the suspects followed him and shot him repeatedly. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Killer yields

OLONGAPO CITY—A man, who admitted killing his former live-in partner and her boyfriend in Subic, Zambales, surrendered to the Olongapo City police on Monday. Senior Supt. Orlando Maddela Jr., Olongapo police chief, identified the suspect as Salustino Urbano Jr., 43, a security guard and resident of Barangay New Banicain here. Maddela said Urbano admitted to police that he killed his live-in partner Leah Bogis and her boyfriend Napoleon Solis on Sept. 20 in Barangay Pamatawan in Subic. Reports said the victims were sleeping inside Bogis' house when Urbano shot them using a .38 cal. revolver. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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The Philippine Development Innovation Marketplace 2004 competition, *Panibagong Paraan*, invites concept papers responding to the theme ***"MAKING SERVICES WORK FOR THE POOR."***

Project entries should fall under any of the following sectoral areas identified in the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP): *Health • Education • Conservation • Environment • Water and Sanitation • Infrastructure • Energy • Housing • Agriculture and Agrarian Reform • Good Governance • Information and Communication Technology • Social Protection*

Winning proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria: Innovativeness • Partnership • Sustainability • Replicability • Impact • Cost-effectiveness

Additional sponsored award categories, thus far, include: Community Efforts to Improve Education in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), Creative Responses to the Population Issue and Environment/Biodiversity. Special awards for Environment/Biodiversity projects can be up to PhP2.2M per project implementable over two years.

Applying organizations should partner with any of the following: government, private sector, and other civil society groups.

Initial proposals should be in the form of a brief concept paper (maximum of 3 pages) following the format below:

PROPONENT DETAILS

Organization / Institution
- *Contact Person*
- *Affiliation(s) with any coalition or network, if any*
- *Contact details: Address, Phone / FAX No., E-mail*

Primary Partner Organization(s)/ Institution(s):
- *Contact Person*
- *Contact details: Address, Phone / FAX No., E-mail*

Project Details
- *Title of the Project*
- *Project Implementation Site(s)*
- *Project Duration*
- *Projected Total Project Costs*
- *Projected Funding Request*
- *Projected Funding Counterpart*

PROJECT QUESTIONS

1. What is the problem / issue your project is addressing?
2. What is your idea, and how does it address the problem(s) / issue(s) described above in terms of making services work for the poor?
3. Describe the activities / steps your project will undertake to achieve its objectives.
4. How is your idea innovative or different from existing approaches that are addressing the problem(s) / issue(s) you have described above?
5. How will your project contribute towards building or strengthening partnerships?
6. What are the expected results of your project? Whom will they benefit? How will they be measured?
7. How will your project be sustained even after the DIM funding?
8. How can your project be replicated in areas with similar conditions?

Concept papers must be submitted with one or two reference documents (e.g. SEC registration) establishing proof of the organization's legal personality. All entries must comply with all requirements for eligibility and format; non-compliant entries will be automatically rejected. A multi-sectoral technical working group will evaluate eligible concept papers.

Concept papers in either **English or Filipino** can be sent by **mail, hand delivered, faxed, or e-mailed** to:

DIM 2004 Secretariat
World Bank Office, 23rd Floor,
The Taipan Place, Emerald Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Fax Number: (632) 917-3080 • E-Mail: dimp@worldbank.org

Finalists will be announced on the week of **17-21 November 2003** and will be asked to submit full proposals and participate in an exhibit and Knowledge Forum on **9-10 January 2004 at the Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City**. A board of distinguished jurors will determine the winners.

For further information, please email Ms. Chiara Bautista at cbautista@worldbank.org or call (632) 917-3038. Or visit our website at http://www.worldbank.org

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3 customs men ordered sacked for vessel loss

CEBU CITY—The Office of the Ombudsman in the Visayas has ordered dismissed three Customs personnel and one maritime policeman for the disappearance of a vessel loaded with about 20,000 sacks of smuggled rice.

In a modified decision, Visayas Deputy Ombudsman Primo Miro found the four administratively guilty of grave misconduct, gross neglect of duty and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service.

They were Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS) Special Agent Bienvenido Caluyo, Customs Seaman Julius Cesar Villarin and SPO4 Rodolfo Cantero of the Philippine National Police Maritime Command.

Aside from their dismissal, the four are also permanently disqualified from holding public office, and will forfeit all their benefits.

Miro also ordered the three-month suspension of three customs police officers after they were found guilty of simple misconduct and neglect of duty for failing to secure the cargo vessel.

They were Capt. Ronald Passion of the Enforcement Security Service (ESS), former CIIS officer-in-charge Rogaciano Ceniza Jr. and Customs Special Agent Ernest Echevarria. Miro, however, cleared from any liability former Cebu District Collectors Roberto Sacramento and Santiago Maravillas.

He said that as managers, the two "cannot be superintending the acts of division heads as they are already assigned to them by the nature of their duties."

The MV Great Faith was seized in September 2001 after it was found to have been loaded with smuggled rice. It was guarded by Customs personnel at the wharf in Mandaue City, Cebu when it disappeared on Dec. 25, 2001.

Miro modified the resolution penned by the assigned graft investigator and recommended by his two directors Virginia Palanca-Santiago and Edgardo Canton.

It was not clear what part of the original decision Miro changed. *Suzzane Salva, PDI Visayas Bureau*

DELFIN MALLARI/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

AS THOUSANDS of volunteers sweep garbage during coastal cleanup day, this backhoe and truck contracted for a PPA project, do their own thing—extract sand from a beach in Barangay Talao-Talao near Tayabas Bay.

Tayabas Bay beach losing sand to PPA infra project

LUCENA CITY—The Quezon Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) has warned a project contractor to get from "legitimate sources" the sand and gravel that it was using for its project.

The project is worth P130-million and involves the Philippine Ports Authority which is repairing roads and reclaiming land in the coastal villages of Dalahican and Talao-Talao, this city.

Emrich Borja, Quezon environment officer, also reminded Manuel Cana, PPA terminal division manager, in a letter dated Sept. 10 that the 800-meter, four-lane road and reclamation project located in the two coastal villages has no environmental compliance certificate, which should be secured prior to any development project.

According to Gliceria Verzo, Quezon Environment Management Bureau chief, the project contractor, Golden City Engineering Construction, has been allegedly taking sand for the project from the farthest end of Talao-Talao beach.

"Beach mining is strictly prohibited under Republic Act 7942 or the Philippine Mining Act of 1995," Verzo stressed.

Pristine

The Talao-Talao beach, aside from having clean and pristine sand, is also known for its far and distant shoreline, especially during low tide.

The place was the location shooting of Fernando Poe Jr. and Susan Roces' movie, "Perlas ng Silangan" during the 1970s.

But in response to the DENR letter, Cana said he referred the matter to the project engineer for the project proponents to explain the sand extraction and answer the officials' questions.

Engineer Bong Atienza, one of the project engineers, said the project proponents had already applied for the necessary permits from the city hall. But he stressed that the contracting firm mostly buys its sand requirements from commercial suppliers.

Janet Geneblazo-Buelo, community coordinator of Tanggol-Kalikasan, a non-government organization advocating environmental issues, said the illegal activity poses great danger to the residents in the area, especially among children who used to play and frolic in the shallow part of the beach during low tide.

It was Buelo's group that raised the issue before the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Mini-craters

In a video footage taken by Buelo, children of fishermen were seen playing around mini-craters in the beach that were caused by backhoe diggings.

The children themselves reported to Buelo that the sand extractions were taking place from morning to early dawn the next day.

During last Saturday's celebration of the International Coastal Cleanup Day, as thousands of volunteers swept clean the villages of their garbage, the INQUIRER became witness to how the backhoe was loading in three big dump trucks bearing signs "PPA Project, Do Not Delay," freshly extracted sand from the Talao-Talao beach.

When the equipment operator and trucks drivers noticed that the operation was being recorded on film, they hurriedly left the area.

Talao-Talao village chief Pedrito Ranillo, refused to talk with the INQUIRER. However, in a taped interview with Buelo, Ranillo admitted that he did not ask the PPA if they had any government permit for the sand extraction.

"What I'm just after is the benefit it would give to the barangay," he said.

The village official charges at least P25 for every truck of extracted sand from the one-hectare quarry site that is in front of a lot owned by one Boyet Mendoza.

Lucena City Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr. said he did not give any permission for the sand quarrying. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Lanao villagers declare peace sanctuary

By Jeffery M. Tupas
Masiu, Lanao del Sur

FOR ONE whole week, the *kulintang*, an indigenous musical instrument, played endlessly and engulfed Manalocon-Talub, a small village in Masiu, Lanao del Sur.

Its tempting melody called everyone in the village and their neighbors to gather for a grand celebration at the end of that week of Aug. 18-24.

A splendid display of colorful flags and well-adorned arcs greeted outsiders. For some of them, it signaled that something big would happen. Indeed there was, as it was the time the villagers declared their place a sanctuary of peace and development.

As proof of their genuine quest for peace, the residents tirelessly endured the weeklong activities.

On the eve of the big event, three *bayok* artists took turns in chanting until dawn. The audience, mostly mothers with children in tow, endured the cold and wet night to listen to the passages delivered by the artists.

The villagers bellowed in agreement or appreciation to the performers' messages. And they stayed on for the big event that they hoped would be a peaceful beginning, free from the terrors of *rido* (vendetta) and armed conflict.

Visitors, ustadz, sultans, community leaders, and members of government and nongovernment organizations joined in the merriment as they tried to put an end to the "madness of conflict" that had hounded the people for many years.

The history of conflict in Mindanao can be traced to the time of Spanish colonization and American rule when the Moro people resisted attempts to control them. The struggle for independence has continued even after the foreign rules.

"The Spaniards wanted to convert us to Catholics. Our ancestors fought them and defeated them, and the Spaniards were forced to leave," said Brig Gen. Abduljabbar "Africa" Mamoclo, chair of the Moro National Liberation Front's Executive Committee.of the Central Ranao State Revolutionary Committee.

For modern-time Moros, one of their greatest enemies was the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his martial law regime.

UN program

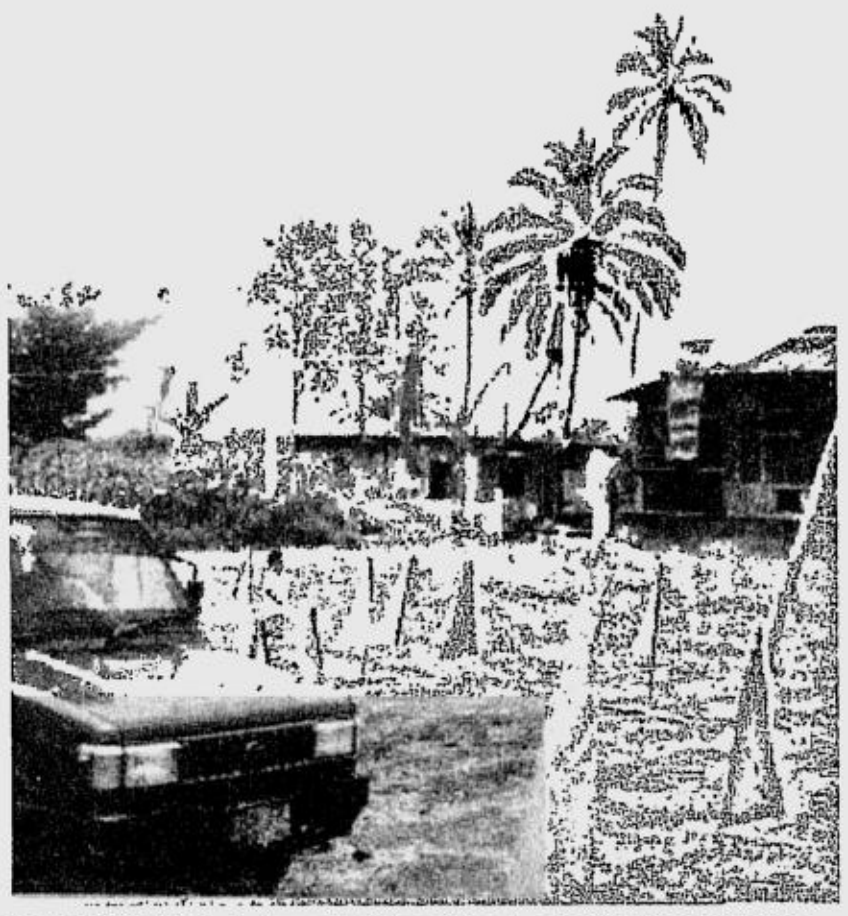
Ali Hadji-Isah, an advocate of the United Nations Multi-Donor Program (UNMDP) peace and development, said that during the martial law years, the whole of Masiu was no-man's land with its houses burned to ashes.

For five months, he said, not one Maranao was in the area. As they went back, he said, they were welcomed by the great destruction caused by the military attack. Most of the residents' properties were stolen, he said.

Now a partner of the UNMDP in conflict areas in Lanao del Sur, Mamoclo said Manalocon-Talub was the seedbed of rebellion in Lanao del Sur where many rebels like him had trained in warfare.

Mamoclo joined the MNLF in 1976 when he was 14 years old. Because he was too young to carry firearms, he was assigned to the logistics team tasked with bringing in food and bullets to the frontline.

"It's very hard to be part of a rebellion. More than anything else, the time that you were away from your family was the most difficult of all. But everything was worth it," Mamoclo said.



THE COLORFUL basket used for Sipa sa Mangis, a sports indigenous to the Muslims of Mindanao. JEFFREY M. TUPAS

In 1983, Mamoclo was sent to Libya for a three-year training in commando warfare. After he returned to the country in 1986, he became training director of the MNLF Central Ranao Committee, covering 19 towns, including Marawi City. Later, he became officer in charge of the committee.

"Our ancestors taught us that Mindanao was ours and we fought for it. Until now, this issue is still unresolved. But I feel I have done something for the freedom and right of the Muslim people," he said.

Peace agreement

In September 1996, the government and the MNLF finally entered into a peace agreement.

When the village was declared a peace sanctuary, Mamoclo said the people supported the move although the government had not granted them full autonomy.

"We are showing the government that we are sincere in resolving the problems of peace and order here. These people are here because they want to tell the government that they, too, are peace-loving people," Mamoclo said.

The people said that in order to ensure their collective aspiration toward a more lasting peace in their community, they are declaring Manalocon-Talub a sanctuary of peace.

The village, they said, was once a very peaceful place whose people were productively engaged in farming, fishing and other livelihood activities. They were disciplined because they believed that committing crimes was not only morally wrong but also considered taboo, they added.

"The imposition of martial law in 1972 resulted in conventional fights between the armed forces and the Muslim rebels which affected the economic gains, serenity and harmonious relationship enjoyed by the residents," they said.

"This was replaced by an environment of fear, terror, mistrust and hatred further divided the people and tolerated the culture of crime and violence," they added.

Peace and dev't

Hatimil Hassan, interim chair of the MNLF, said the declaration was a gateway for the people to know what the government and the MNLF have achieved following the 1996 peace agreement.

"The agreement ... had three components—political, economic and military. It's good that we have with us the UNMDP as a peace and development partner because the mission of the agreement is to establish a peaceful and developed Mindanao," he added.

Hassan, however, shared Mamoclo's sentiment that the agreement has yet to achieve something. "We hope that we can finally deliver the message of peace for Mindanao," he stressed.

The villagers said they would strongly adhere to a peaceful settlement of conflict, that all efforts be exerted to promote the culture of peace conducive for their development.

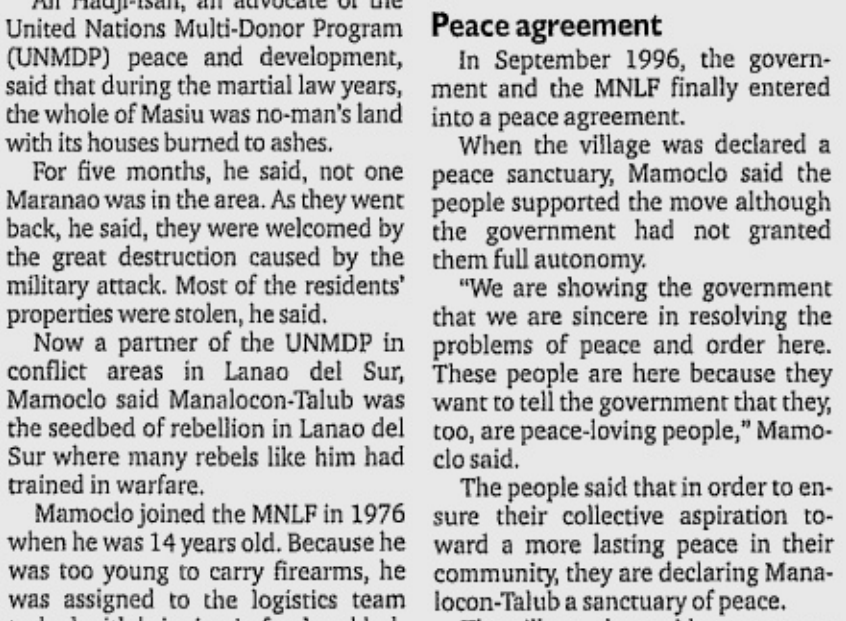
"The conflict prevention will also primarily entail the recognition, respect and promotion of traditional and community-based conflict resolution methods accepted and practiced by people. Peaceful resolution will always be possible through dialogue and negotiation," their declaration said.

"We also advocate tolerance, respect and protection of all the rights and fundamental freedom as stated by the Philippine Constitution, customary laws and international covenants," it said.

The villagers appealed to the military and other law enforcing agencies, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, other government agencies and the NGOs, including the media, to respect and recognize the declaration.

The UNMDP's Hadji-Isah said the community's effort to build peace was a runway for similar declaration of peace zones by other villages.

"We hope that this will become a model community. Conflict has caused a wide division among these people and being here gave the insight of what life is in a peaceful community," Hadji-Isah said.



AVEEN Acuña Gulo of the UN Mindanao Development Program affixes her signature in the peace declaration. JEFFREY M. TUPAS

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CIRCULAR NO. 402
Series of 2003

REVISED GUIDELINES ON THE FLOTATION OF BONDS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs) [WITHOUT NATIONAL GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE]

Pursuant to Monetary Board Resolution No. 1151 dated August 14, 2003, the following guidelines shall govern the flotation of bonds by local government units (LGUs) under Republic Act (RA) No. 7160 (Local Government Code of 1991) and Republic Act (RA) No. 7653 (New Central Bank Act) dated 3 July 1993.

I. Legal Basis

A. UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991 (R.A.No. 7160)

"Sec. 299. *Bonds and Other Long-Term Securities.* Subject to the rules and regulations of the Central Bank and the Securities and Exchange Commission, provinces, cities, and municipalities, are hereby authorized to issue bonds, debentures, securities, collaterals, notes and other obligations to finance self-liquidating, income-producing development or livelihood projects pursuant to the priorities established in the approved local development plan or the public investment program. The Sanggunian concerned shall, through an ordinance approved by a majority of all its members, declare and state the terms and conditions of the bonds and the purpose for which the proposed indebtedness is to be incurred."

B. UNDER THE NEW CENTRAL BANK ACT (R.A. No. 7653)

"Section 123. *Financial Advice on Official Credit Operations.* – Before undertaking any credit operation abroad, the Government, through the Secretary of Finance, shall request the opinion, in writing, of the Monetary Board on the monetary implications of the contemplated action. Such opinions must similarly be requested by all political subdivisions and instrumentalities of the Government before any credit operation abroad is undertaken by them.

"The opinion of the Monetary Board shall be based on the gold and foreign exchange resources and obligations of the nation and on the effects of the proposed operation on the balance of payments and on monetary aggregates.

"Whenever the Government, or any of its political subdivisions or instrumentalities, contemplates borrowing within the Philippines, the prior opinion of the Monetary Board shall likewise be requested in order that the Board may render an opinion on the probable effects of the proposed operation on monetary aggregates, the price level, and the balance of payments."

II. Coverage

This Circular shall govern the issuance of bonds by provinces, cities, and municipalities which do not carry the guarantee of the National Government. The LGUs concerned are advised to observe the existing rules and regulations of other government agencies (Department of Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission) relating to LGU bond flotation.

III. Procedures and Documentary Requirements

A. Manner of Request

An LGU proposal to issue bonds shall be submitted to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), through the Secretary of Finance with a formal request for the Monetary Board's opinion on the probable effects of the proposed operation on monetary aggregates, the price level, and the balance of payments.

B. Documentary Requirements

The proposal shall be accompanied by the following documents:

1. An original copy (or a certified true copy) of the ordinance duly signed by the appropriate officers pursuant to the Local Government Code. In accordance with the Local Government Code, the ordinance authorizing the bond flotation should:

a) state the specific purpose/project(s) for which the proposed indebtedness is to be incurred;

b) certify that the project(s) to be financed by the bond flotation is/are a self-liquidating, income-producing development or livelihood project/s pursuant to the priorities established in the approved local development program or the public investment program; and

c) state the terms and conditions of the bond flotation, including sinking fund or other funding arrangements.

2. A copy of the resolution designating the LGU representative, including the specific acts/services that the representative has been authorized to perform.

3. A waiver letter on the confidentiality of information (Annex 1) under Sections 2 and 3 of Republic Act No. 1405, as amended, authorizing all banks and financial institutions under the supervision of the BSP and which have transactions with the concerned LGU to disclose to the BSP all information pertaining to the deposits, investments, loans and other transactions of the concerned LGU (including the history or status of the LGU's dealings with said banks and financial institutions); the waiver letter should be duly executed by the mayor or governor as the case may be.

4. A Department of Finance (DOF) certification that the debt service and borrowing capacity of the proponent LGU satisfies the legal requirements for a bond issue.

C. Monetary Board Opinion

1. Upon submission of all the above requirements, including other additional data or information it may deem necessary in the issuance of its opinion, and if the same are found to be in order, the Monetary Board shall, within a reasonable period of time, render an opinion on the probable effects of the proposed indebtedness on monetary aggregates, the price level, and the balance of payments.

2. The opinion of the Monetary Board shall be forwarded to the concerned LGU through the DOF.

3. The opinion of the Monetary Board does not constitute an endorsement by the BSP of the project since it is limited to the assessment of the monetary implications of the bond flotation. The said opinion is based on: (a) the information contained in the documents submitted by the LGU; and (b) the assumption that the proceeds of the bond flotation will actually be used for the intended projects described in the documents submitted. Hence, investors shall be responsible for assessing the quality of the bonds in terms of risks and returns.

D. Post-Issuance Reports

The LGU or its representative or its trustee bank, as the case may be, shall submit to the BSP a post flotation report (Annex 2) that will indicate the actual amount of the issue as well as the final terms and conditions of the issue within 30 days from the date of the flotation; and such other reports as may be required by the BSP.

IV. Sanctions

Any violation of this Circular shall be subject to the sanctions provided under Sections 36 and 37 of Republic Act No. 7653.

V. Repealing Clause

All BSP regulations or issuances or any provision thereof that may be inconsistent with the provisions of this Circular, including Circular No. 4 dated August 29, 1994, are hereby repealed and superseded accordingly.

VI. Effectivity

This Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

(Sgd.) **RAFAEL B. BUENAVENTURA**
Governor

4 September 2003

MILF welcomes GMA attendance at OIC summit

By TJ Burgonio

IT'S doubtful that President Macapagal-Arroyo's attendance at the Organization of the Islamic Conference summit next month will clinch the government's bid to gain observer status in the influential organization, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front said yesterday.

But, it said, the President's attendance was a "welcome development" that would allow her a close look at and "first-hand information" on the issues besetting Mindanao and the Muslim world.

Ms Macapagal has accepted Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad's invitation to attend the summit of the influential 57-member group of Muslim nations. According to a Filipino foreign affairs official, it is unusual for such an invitation to be extended to the leader of a country that is not an OIC member.

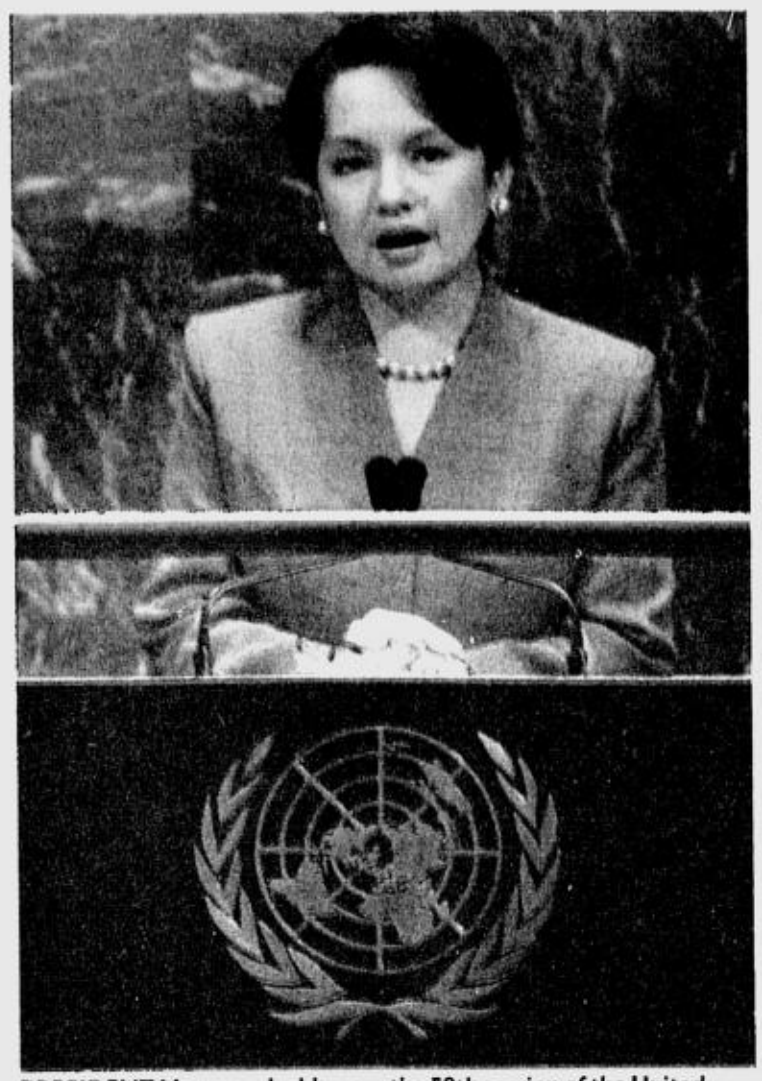
Mahathir is expected to assume the post of OIC secretary general when he steps down as prime minister, according to MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu.

But Kabalu voiced skepticism that Ms Macapagal's presence at the OIC summit would ensure the Philippines' observer status, similar to what was granted to the Moro National Liberation Front in the late 1970s.

"That can't happen. The government has no moral ascendancy to represent the Bangsamoro people. That seat was intended for the MNLF alone in the interest of the Bangsamoro people," he said in a phone interview.

Kabalu said he could not see "the logic" of the assumption because the Philippines was not even a member of the OIC.

Besides, the annual regional meeting of the OIC Foreign Ministers conference, and not the OIC summit, is the proper venue to tackle such an issue, he said.



PRESIDENT Macapagal addresses the 58th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York Friday. EPA PHOTO

GMA uses UN to send peace signals to MILF

From page A1

tation for the President to attend the OIC summit.

"All these are favorable developments both for the government and the MILF," said MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu. "Annan's participation could help ensure that agreements between the government and the MILF would be religiously observed. Kabalu said numerous offers from developed countries and OIC member states were boosting the MILF's belief that peace in Mindanao was at hand.

"You have US President George W. Bush offering help, Libyan President [Moammar] Ghadaffy, the UN, the OIC—we are elated and humbled by these offers," he said.

Optimistic

Jun Mantawil, a member of the MILF's peace negotiating team, said the secessionist group was now convinced that the peace process would be best served under the Macapagal administration.

According to Mantawil, they are optimistic that a final peace agreement will be signed before the President's term ends "because [we] see in [her] genuine sincerity in resolving the Mindanao conflict."

"We see no obstacles that would hinder the attainment of genuine peace through a political solution," Kabalu said.

He said not even the prickly issue of the withdrawal of government troops from the Buliok Complex straddling North Cotabato and Maguindanao was posing a danger to the peace process.

The issue, he said, could be discussed and resolved by the peace panels when the peace talks formally resume in Kuala Lumpur next month.

The Army's 6th Infantry Division in Cotabato City said only a Marine company composed of about 50 persons remained in Buliok.

The bulk of the military forces that occupied what used to serve as the MILF's headquarters moved to Lanao del Sur last month, according to Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga, 6th ID commander.

Senga said the other troops positioned near Buliok were assigned to neutralize kidnap-for-ransom groups in the vast Liguasan Marsh.

But Kabalu said the MILF was alarmed by this military operation because it was being done as a unilateral effort.

He pointed out that under earlier agreements between the government and the MILF, operations against criminal elements would be a joint effort. "Or if the military or the police conduct operations, these should be properly coordinated with us," he said.

Correct and viable

In her speech, the President said both the Philippine government and the MILF "realize that the prescription of the United Nations is the correct and only viable one: that peace is an indispensable condition for economic development just as development is an essential component of peace."

She said the visions for development set during the 2000 Millennium Summit of 146 heads of state had begun "to bear fruit" in the Philippines and were being "applied in our peace process for ... Mindanao."

Turning to the overall plight of Filipinos, she said "nothing will do more to lift the Philippines out of poverty than peace itself."

As she had announced to reporters, the President said her administration was willing to send peacekeeping forces to Liberia under the UN banner.

She thanked the UN community for also supporting the Philippine lobby to be a nonpermanent member of the Security Council, representing Asia, from 2004 to 2005. Mission officials in New York earlier said the Philippines was assured of being elected to the council during the Oct. 23 vote.

The President began her speech by noting how the UN itself had survived its "most difficult and challenging period" since its establishment in 1958.

"A community of cynicism has formed on the ability of the UN to rise from the morass of disunity and disruptive competition among major powers to fulfill its catalytic role for international peace, security and development," she said.

But while the UN "struggled over the last 12 months, its predicted decline is greatly exaggerated," the President said.

"Economic linkages among nations have widened and deepened in many sectors. The interconnectedness of the global village continues to infringe traditional political boundaries," she added.

Fruitless

Kabalu said the MILF had also launched an operation against kidnap groups hiding in the Liguasan Marsh, where it maintains a sizeable force.

The operation has so far been fruitless because Tahir Alonto, Mayangkang Saguile, and their men remain at large, he said.

Alonto heads the notorious Pentagon kidnap gang, which, according to the military, had merged with Saguile's forces.

"Our forces under Commander Jack of the 105th Best Command has been scouring the Liguasan Marsh since Sunday, but no arrest has been made," Kabalu told the INQUIRER.

"There are reports that they are now hiding outside the marsh," he said.

Kabalu also said the MILF operation against kidnappers in its claimed territories was part of its effort to boost the peace process and to belie reports that it was coddling criminals.

The military claims that Alonto works for the MILF and that the recent rash of kidnappings is the handiwork of the Pentagon gang.

Alonto has denied this as well as the report that he and Saguile had joined forces.

Kabalu said the resurgence of kidnapping in the region could be part of destabilization moves against the Macapagal administration.

He said there was a "common denominator" in the renewed operations of kidnap and bank robbery groups in Metro Manila: "fund-raising, maybe partly because of the coming elections."

With Edwin O. Fernandez, Nash B. Maulana, Charlie C. Señase and Rosa-May V. de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Filipina takes up cudgels for HK maids

HONG KONG—Thousands of foreign maids could be eligible for permanent residency in Hong Kong if a landmark legal challenge succeeds, a human rights group said on Saturday.

Filipina domestic helper Julita Raza, 34, who claims Hong Kong's residency requirements for foreign maids are discriminatory, has won a judicial review of her case.

Law Yuk-kai, director of Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor, said Raza had a strong chance of success.

"This shows there is a serious problem with the immigration ordinance... and therefore I believe she has a strong case," said Law.

Law said there was no constitutional basis for imposing tougher residency requirements on maids compared with other foreign expatriates.

She added that 15,000 maids who meet the seven-year residency requirement could apply for permanent residency here if Raza's challenge was successful.

Currently, non-Chinese nationals are classified as permanent residents if they have lived in Hong Kong for a continuous period of at least seven years—unless they are foreign maids.

Raza, a divorcee with a 12-year-old son, arrived in Hong Kong from the Philippines in October 1992.

The majority of Hong Kong's 240,000 foreign domestic helpers are from the Philippines, with Indonesia, Thailand, Nepal and Sri Lanka also contributing significant numbers. *AFP*

IN THE LION'S DEN. A Filipino domestic helper reads her letters probably from loved ones at home astride a statue of a lion in front of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. in Hong Kong Saturday. AFP PHOTO

Terror alert raised at ports

From page A1

But she said that if there was any such report requiring WG&A to raise security levels, it would comply immediately.

INQUIRER sources said a text message that began circulating in Mindanao on Tuesday was one of the points discussed at a security meeting held Thursday in Malacañang attended by representatives of the military and police intelligence agencies.

"It was a minor detail in the overall agenda and most of those who attended did not see any reason for alarm in the text message," a source said.

The text message supposedly read: "Abu Sayyaf Group Advisory: Muslim travelers must avoid all WG&A (Superferry) vessels for they are on our priority Target Hitlist. Pls Pass ASG."

It was also reportedly circulated in various dialects in the South, like Tausug, Yakan, Maguindanaoan and Maranao.

An intelligence official contacted by phone said that while the text message was indeed taken up at the Thursday meeting, the information was considered raw and unverified.

"Generally, we view it as part of the overall destabilization effort against the government," the official said.

Two warnings

Contacted by mobile phone yesterday, Janjalani said the Abu Sayyaf sent a first warning "directly" to WG&A by mail last month.

He said they issued the text warning "*para hindi ganoon karami ang masaktan* (so fewer people will be hurt)."

"*Hindi kasi naniwala ang kumpanya sa ipinadala namin sa kanilang warning* (The company did not believe our first warning)," he said.

The Abu Sayyaf is on the US government's list of international terrorist groups and is believed to be linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

It was blamed for last year's bomb attack in Malagutay, Zamboanga City, where a US serviceman was killed. It also claimed responsibility for two other bomb attacks this year in Sultan Kudarat and in Koronadal, South Cotabato.

The sum of $5 million has been offered for Janjalani's capture.

Asked what his group intended to put across through their warnings, Janjalani said in Filipino: "The government probably has an idea now what we're holding and what we are capable of doing."

He boasted that the Abu Sayyaf was planning something in time for the visit of US President George W. Bush on Oct. 18.

But a Mindanao-based police officer said the text warning could be part of the Abu Sayyaf's psychological warfare.

"Maybe they want to be talked about again," the officer said in Filipino. "They've been forgotten, after all."

The officer said all other commercial ships had been alerted. "It could be a diversionary tactic, so we are not limiting the alert to WG&A vessels," he said.

In the event of an attack similar to the April 2 bombing of the Sasa wharf in Davao City, the PPA's Sungcad said port workers and vendors had been trained in emergency response procedures.

Sungcad also said that while the PPA would like to thoroughly inspect container vans, a shipping regulation was preventing it from doing so.

"We have a big problem with the container vans carrying cargo because we do not have the means to know what they contain. Opening sealed container vans requires the presence of the shipper and a representative of the shipping line," he said.

But Rogelio Apas, chief security officer of WG&A Superferry 14, said they were sure their passengers were safe from attacks.

"Aside from the strict monitoring and checking of cargo, we also have K-9 [bomb-sniffing dogs] for each of the Superferries," Apas said.

Beefed-up patrol

In General Santos City, Lt. Cmdr. George Ursabia Jr., Coast Guard station chief, told the Inquirer that he had informed shipping firms, particularly the WG&A, about the supposed Abu Sayyaf plot.

Aside from strengthened port security, the Coast Guard has beefed up patrols on the high seas, he said, adding:

"We don't want to leave the safety of the passengers and the vessels to chance." Ursabia also said the Coast Guard had coordinated with the fishing industry, the Naval Reserve Command led by Marfin Tan, and officials of the coastal barangays in the South Cotabato-Sultan Kudarat-Sarangani-General Santos area, particularly on intelligence data gathering and monitoring of suspicious sea craft.

"There's nothing to worry about. As usual, tight security measures at the Makar port are in effect. The threat is most likely on the high seas," he said.

Bong Jala, marketing manager of WG&A in General Santos, said they were in constant touch with authorities to safeguard passengers.

In Cotabato City, WG&A cashier Brenda Millondaga said Marines were helping secure passengers.

She noted that as it was, passengers were complaining about the tight security checks.

At Polloc Port some 10 kilometers north of Cotabato City, passenger and private vehicles are not allowed entry to the sprawling terminal as part of security measures, according to port manager Indatun Talusan.

"A company of Marines, backed by armored personnel carriers, a team of policemen plus port security guards, are deployed at the port compound when the Superferry arrives until it leaves for another journey," he said.

The WG&A is the only shipping line serving the Cotabato-Manila route. Its vessel arrives at dawn on Monday and leaves at noon.

Hoaxes

The intelligence official who confirmed the Thursday meeting in Malacañang said that after the July 27 mutiny in Makati City, there had been a number of alarming text messages that, when verified, turned out to be hoaxes and merely part of destabilization moves.

He cited the text message saying that troops from the Northern Luzon Command were advancing toward Manila. "When we checked, it was negative," he said. "Not a single soldier at the Nolcom headquarters in Tarlac was declared missing in action."

The official said that while the text warning on the alleged plot to bomb ships remained unverified, "just the same, the supposed target has been alerted to upgrade their security."

"This is not to create panic, but to see to it that all possible areas wherein groups like the Abu Sayyaf could destabilize the government is addressed," he said.

The WG&A's Virtusio reiterated that the company had been "very observant of all factors that will affect security."

She said that as far as safety and security were concerned, WG&A had always worked closely with such agencies as the Department of Transportation and Communication, Coast Guard, PPA, Maritime Industry Authority and local governments. *With reports from Grace C. Albasin, Aquiles Z. Zonio and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Stella O. Gonzales in Manila*

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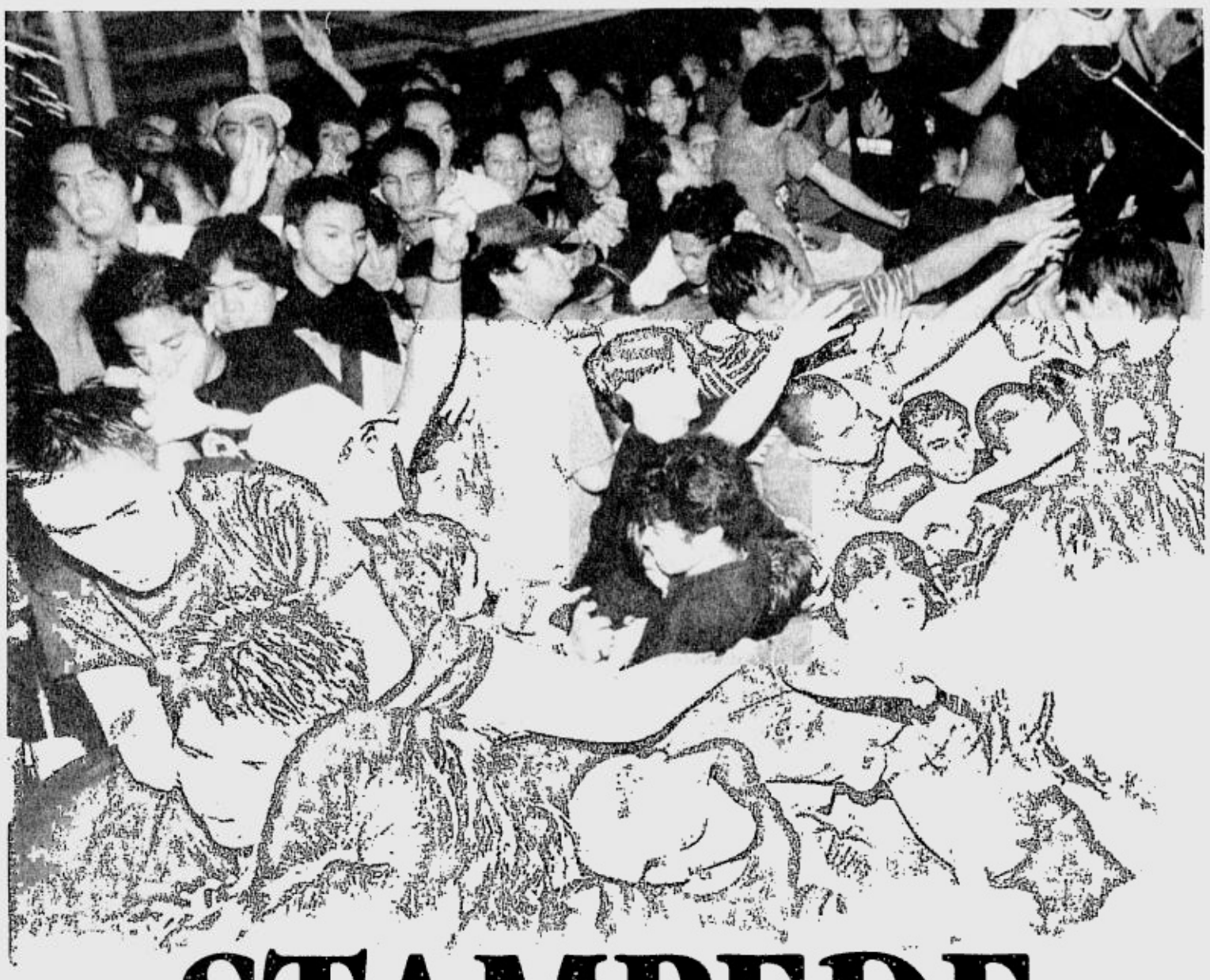


STAMPEDE

Rowdy fans spark riot in Marikina rock concert

By Luige del Puerto and Romel Lalata

SCORES of young people were hurt during a stampede that marred a rock concert in Marikina on Friday night.

At least six young concertgoers were treated at various hospitals for bruises they suffered from the pushing and shoving crowd. They were released shortly after treatment.

Six other people were slightly hurt and were helped by other fans who had come to watch the Red Horse's Musiklaban rock challenge finals beside the Marikina River.

Police estimated the crowd at around 3,000. A report said the pushing and shoving started when the concert organizers let in thousands of people who wanted to watch the show.

Raniel Sorillo, 14, said he and his friends elbowed their way up front when the organizers announced they could get in.

Behind him, others were also pushing and shoving, and the crowd swelled fast, he said.

Calls for sobriety were ignored and, before anyone could guess what was happening, bodies started falling down in heaps like water bursting from a cracked dam.

It was one of the worst stampedes this year. Girls and boys disappeared under the mass as security guards struggled to pluck them to safety.

Trapped between shields and swinging truncheons on one hand, and a way too eager crowd on another, Sorillo fell to the muddy ground.

"I struggled to get up, but I just couldn't. Every time I got up, somebody would pin me down," he told the INQUIRER. "I had never been that scared in my entire life. I thought I was going to die."

The flesh of 18-year-old Alvin Aquino's back looked like it was branded with the sole of a rubber shoe. John Garcia, 19, said he could not count how many people had stepped on his face.

Before the stampede, security personnel had played a game of cat and mouse with the crowd outside.

The young people were agitated they were not allowed in, complaining that the ticket price of P70 was too steep.

"I thought it was free. The posters did not say it was not," one of the fans said. "We just want to watch and enjoy the concert, like all others."

The crowd threw rocks at the metal fence, hoping to attract the attention of the organizers. This they did, and even more.

Cops and security personnel armed with riot sticks chased them.

Then the rocks got bigger, and before long, the wooden parts of the fence were torn apart.

Reinforcements came, including a SWAT team. Using sticks and shields, they started hitting the rowdy fans, who fought back.

At least six shots were fired in the air. Tear gas was lobbed at the crowd outside, which threw the canisters right back in.

"We will be responsible for the trouble that happened here," said Robin Bernabe, president of Events Circuit, the organizer. "We will not shirk from the responsibility," he said, adding they exerted reasonable restraint to control the crowd.

But by the time these reporters left near 11 p.m., the rock bands were playing again.

A CONCERTGOER looks dazed after making it out alive from a stampede (above) that marred the rock concert. PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

FEET and heads get entangled as rowdy fans push and shove.

Smog monitors put up on Edsa

By Norman Bordadora

AUTHORITIES have put up seven smog monitoring stations on Edsa to catch smoke-belching vehicles and bring down the air pollution level in Metro Manila's main thoroughfare.

"We are aiming for a 20 percent reduction of the total suspended particulates (TSP) on Edsa by the end of the year," Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun said yesterday. "While the TSP reading on Edsa is below the maximum tolerable level of 230 micrograms per normal cubic meter, there is still a need to improve air quality."

TSPs are small solid and liquid particles suspended in the air. This includes dust, smoke, metallic and mineral particles, soot, mist and acid fumes.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is actively monitoring the particles through its Environmental Management Bureau.

"TSPs, even in small doses, affect breathing, cause eye irritation and serious lung problems," Gozun said.

The DENR has linked up with five local government units to undertake the Smoke-Free Edsa campaign.

In yesterday's launch, Gozun joined Mayors Feliciano Belmonte of Quezon City, Rey Malonzo of Caloocan City, Benjamin Abalos of Mandaluyong City, Jejomar Binay of Makati City, and Wenceslao Trinidad of Pasay City.

"The seven anti-smoke belching stations on Edsa are manned by the five local government units on Edsa, the Metro Manila Development Administration and the DENR's Bantay Usok," Gozun said.

EMB statistics showed that the Congressional area in Quezon City posted a high 237 microgram per normal cubic meter for the first quarter of 2003, but this declined to just 175 ug/ncm in the second quarter.

The highest TSP concentration was recorded in Makati City, with 216 ug/ncm, followed by Pasay City with 214 ug/ncm.

METROBRIEFS

Junkshop robbed

SEVEN armed men stormed a junkshop in Quezon City yesterday and fled with about P200,000 worth of cash and jewelry. Police said the still unidentified robbers attacked Solar Junkshop on Dela Cruz St., Sitio Gitna at 10:15 a.m. yesterday while the shop's employees were on break. The robbers took away about P100,000 in cash, an 18-karat gold necklace worth P30,000, a wristwatch worth P40,000 and a Nokia 7250 cell phone from Wilmer Chua, 39, owner of the junkshop, according to the Caloocan City Police report. Emmanuel Evarle, a walk-in client, also lost his two gold rings and wristwatch all worth P22,000. The suspects then fled in Chua's Toyota Revo. The vehicle was later recovered on Reliance Street, Nagkaisang Nayon, Quezon City. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Suicide kills tanod

A SECURITY guard went amuck and killed a barangay tanod the other night in Las Piñas City after a fight with his wife. The guard, Orestes Prado Jr., 34, of Barangay CAA, Las Piñas, then shot himself. Police said neighbors had reported hearing gunshots inside the suspect's house as he was quarreling with his wife around 8:30 p.m. Three policemen and three barangay tanods immediately responded. But Prado fired when he saw them, hitting and killing Silverio Jose, one of the tanods. Prado then apparently shot himself on the head, according to Prado's 11-year-old son, Leevard. *Margaux Ortiz*

Stinking body

RESIDENTS of Shelterville Subdivision in Caloocan City were bothered by a stench early morning the other day. When couple Carlos and Eva dela Paz traced where it was coming from, they came upon the body of Nenita Besol, 64, wrapped in a blanket, already in an early stage of decomposition. Besol's body was found about 3 a.m. in front of her house in Block 2, Lot 2, Shelterville. She reportedly had been missing for three days. Traces of blood were also found in the victim's room and part of the house where her body was found. Camarin station commander Mario Dapilloza said that they had also found a hole at the back of Besol's house. Police theorized the pit was dug up for the victim's body. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

MHS homecoming

THE OLDEST high school in the province of Masbate will be celebrating its 75th founding anniversary on Dec. 27. All alumni of the Masbate High School/Masbate National Comprehensive High School are invited to attend a meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4, at the Tamaraw Hall of the DENR Office in Parks and Wildlife Park, Quezon City. For inquiries, please contact Jing Almario at Tel. Nos. 0919 3212666 and Joy Andaya at 9213518.

Half-naked and dead

THE PELLET-RIDDLED body of a half-naked man was fished out of the sea near Isla Puting Bato in Tondo on Thursday. Police are still trying to determine the identity of the victim, who apparently died of drowning, rather than the wounds he received allegedly from a pellet gun, said SPO2 Steve Casimiro. Police described the victim as around 40 years old, dark-complexioned, 5-foot-4 and slim. He was only wearing a pair of brown shorts when found at around 6 a.m. *Leila Salaverria*

Bus operators may shoulder perks for cops riding shotgun

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

POLICE officials have announced that they would be offering incentives to lawmen who would be assigned to ride shotgun on passenger buses in Metro Manila.

But a problem arises: Who would foot the bill?

National Capital Region Police Office Director Reynaldo Velasco on Friday told the INQUIRER that it would be the bus operators who would be shouldering the insurance benefits offered to bus detectives.

Claire dela Fuente, president of the Integrated Metro Bus Operators Association (IMBOA), told the INQUIRER that she and the other bus operators are still working on the proposal.

In a phone interview, Dela Fuente also said that she would have to coordinate with the NCRPO about the proposed insurance benefits for bus detectives.

Bus detectives are plainclothes and uniformed policemen who are deployed on buses to secure passengers.

Aside from the insurance benefits, the NCRPO is also thinking of cash incentives and quick promotion to bus detectives who would do well in neutralizing gangs and robbers preying on bus passengers.

The NCRPO and the IMBOA on Friday signed a memorandum of agreement formalizing the deployment which has been going on for about three weeks.

Dela Fuente said giving benefits to bus detectives would encourage them to work harder.

She added that the IMBOA was still monitoring the effect of the random deployment of bus detectives.

She also said they were hoping that the initial efforts of the police would be sustained.

The deployment of bus detectives came as the police announced an expected rise in crimes—particularly theft and robbery incidents—as the Christmas season approaches.

Saguisag aiding slay suspect leaves probers puzzled

By Leila Salaverria

LAWYER Rene Saguisag surprised investigators when he dropped by the Western Police District office in Ermita on Friday to meet suspected hired killer Zaldi Dagting who was tagged in the ambush of airport executive Lilia Diaz.

Dagting is being held at the WPD jail after he was arrested last week.

Sources at the National Bureau of Investigation and the WPD said they were amazed and puzzled over Saguisag's presence at the WPD.

"How could Dagting have gotten in touch with Atty. Saguisag? Who would send him to help Dagting?" asked one investigator.

But Saguisag said yesterday that he is helping Dagting upon the request of the latter's relatives to stop the police from allegedly torturing the suspect. Saguisag stressed he would not be representing the suspect in the Diaz murder case.

"Some of (Dagting's) relatives came to my house and told me he was being tortured. I'm helping him for that limited purpose," he said in a phone interview, adding he is providing the help pro bono.

He also said that when he went to see Dagting, he saw welt marks on the suspect's body.

Saguisag said he would do all he could to make sure that Dagting would not be tortured and made to confess to things he did not do.

Supt. Edgar Danao, chief of the District Intelligence and Investigation Division of the WPD, denied the police have tortured or have been torturing Diaz.

He said that if the accusation against the police were true, then maybe Dagting would have confessed by now. But Danao said Dagting has been silent since his arrest.

Dagting was arrested in Taguig on Tuesday by a joint team from the WPD and the NBI.

Napolcom uncovers scam in PNP pension system

By Margaux Ortiz

A RANKING official of the National Police Commission has ordered the investigation of an alleged anomaly in the pension system of the Philippine National Police.

Commissioner Linda Malenab-Hornilla said the investigation was based on a complaint filed by a retired policeman who claimed that a "lending institution" has collected his monthly pension check for August 2003.

The lending institution allegedly collected the pension as payment for the policeman's nonexistent loan, Hornilla said.

In his letter of complaint to Napolcom, retired SPO4 Miguel dela Cruz Jr. of Zamboanga City wrote that he received two separate invitations for a loan.

Dela Cruz said the first invitation was in March 2002 from loan consultant Luisa Luz Visperas. The second was in February 2003 from a Perfecto Apalla.

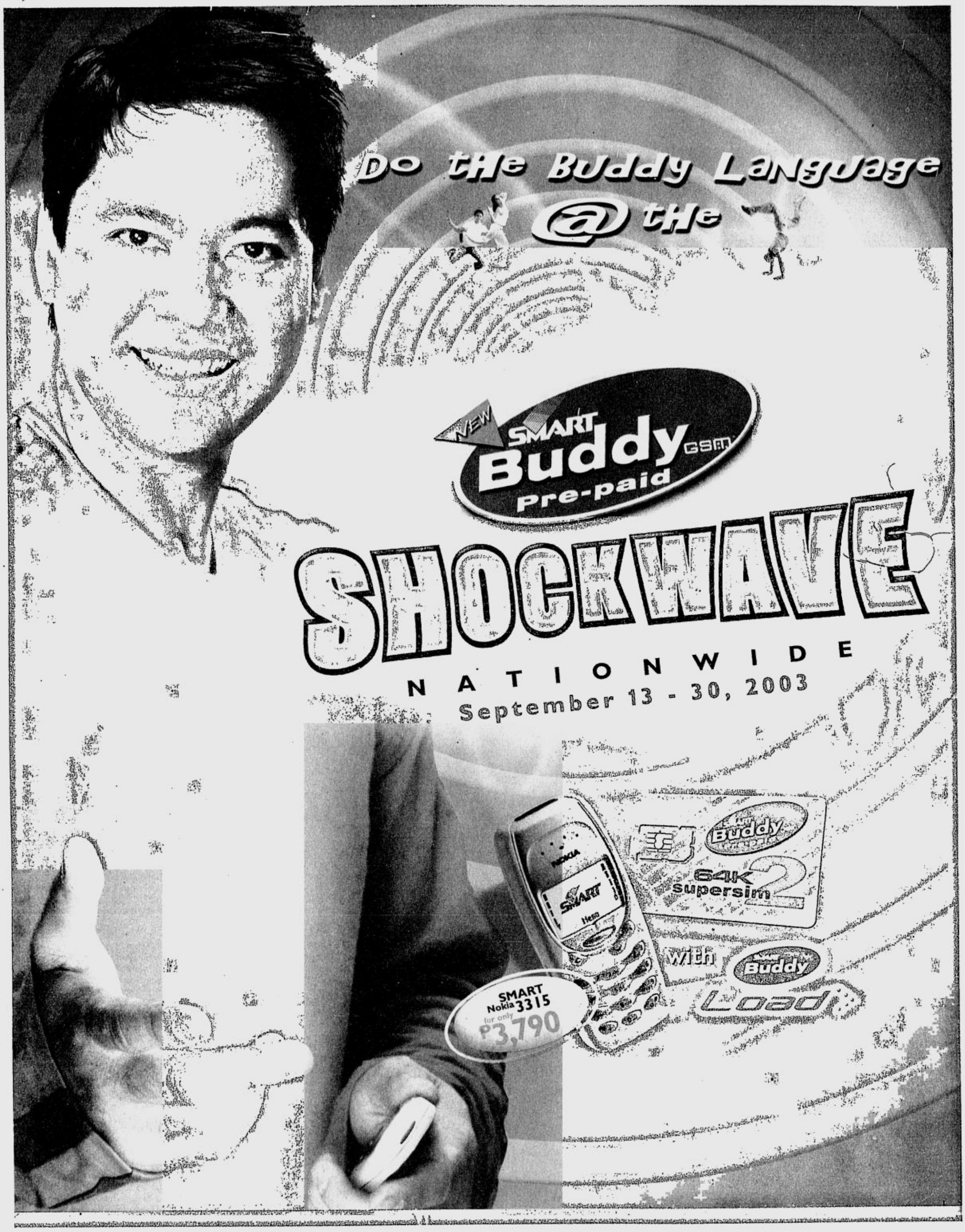
The retired policeman said Visperas and Apalla both belonged to Silver and WDC Lending Inc., located at Bonny Serrano Road, Murphy, Quezon City.

Dela Cruz said he turned down both loan proposals because he depended solely on his monthly pension, having no other means of livelihood.

Hornilla said the commission continues to investigate complaints against the unauthorized issuance and encashment of checks by PNP finance officers.

Hornilla added that these checks often involved the pension of police retirees and the salaries of those in the active service.

"The Napolcom will dig deeper into this (case), which probably involves more unscrupulous and enterprising entities in the PNP," Hornilla said.



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SM Iloilo *LGF, East Wing in front of Aficionado Kiosk*
SM Cagayan De Oro *GF, between Giordano and Guess*
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SUNDAY,
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday SPORTS

A25

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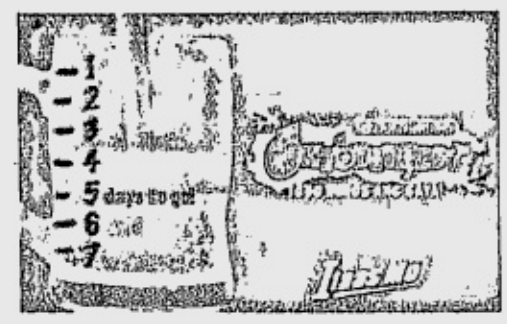
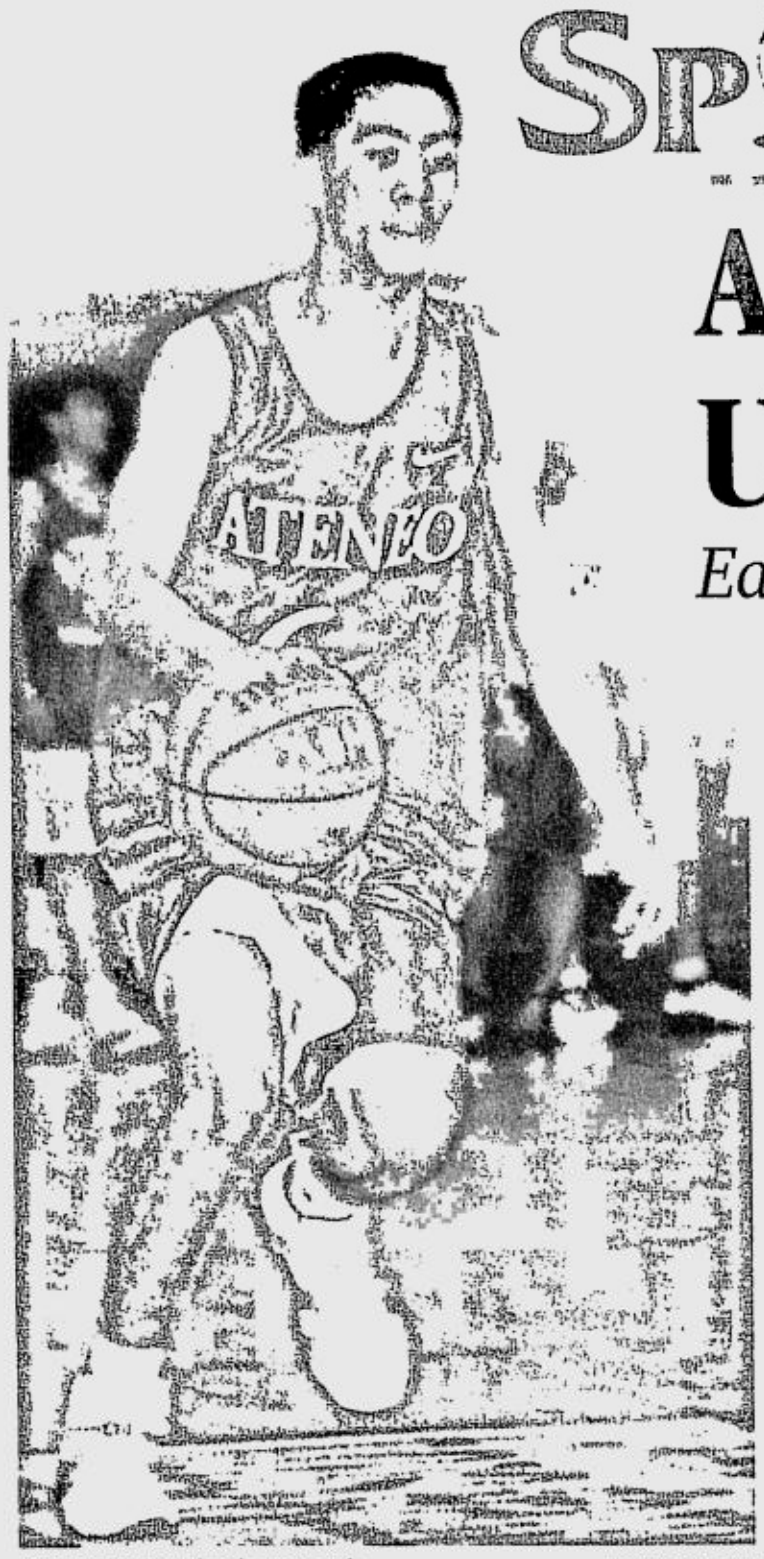


Ateneo coach hits UAAP decision

Eagles-Archers rematch set Tuesday


TENORIO: Out for the rematch. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ATENEO should have been declared winner of its UAAP Final Four game with La Salle last Thursday had the board followed the Fiba (international basketball federation) rules on bench-clearing incidents.

"What's the use of these Fiba rules if we don't follow them?" asked Ateneo coach Joel Banal as he blasted the board's decision Friday that will leave him without his top guard LA Tenorio in Tuesday's rematch with La Salle for the second championship slot.

Banal said Fiba rules automatically award the victory to the leading team when players of both teams leave their benches during a melee.

Thursday's game featured one such incident with 1:31 left and Ateneo leading 65-63 after Tenorio dug a fist into the body of Jerwin Gaco during a scramble for possession and the Archer retaliated by bumping Tenorio hard and sending him crashing backward on the floor.

BANAL

Although both benches emptied, league and team officials managed to prevent matters from turning worse. The Archers went on to win the game in overtime, 76-72.

"The game was telecast nationwide," said Banal. "It could have been a good opportunity for the UAAP to show to the whole country that in the UAAP, rules are being followed."

But commissioner Joe Lipa, whom Banal succeeded as Ateneo mentor, said the board didn't adopt the Fiba rules on bench-clearing and opted to impose its house rules.

While Tenorio got away with his punch during the game, it was clearly shown on TV replays and that cost him a one-game suspension from the board.

Getting automatic one-game bans were Ateneo's Badjie del Rosario and La Salle's Ryan Arana, who were ejected for separate misdeeds.

Banal said Gaco should have been suspended because "he has been spoiling for a fight many times throughout the game."

But La Salle coach Franz Pumaren said the

ATENEO/ A26

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Duremdes back today as Realtors battle Pals /A26

■ Marlins clinch first playoff seat since '97 A

■ Italian driver tums field in qualif

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REINFORCED CONFERENCE

Duremdes back today as Realtors battle Pals

By June Navarro

KENNETH Duremdes springs back to action after a long layoff when Sta. Lucia Realty meets Talk 'N Text today in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

But for Sta. Lucia Realty coach Alfrancis Chua, Duremdes will be there just to get a feel of the game he missed after more than three months of rest due to a calf injury.

"We will not force him to do important things for the team. We'll use him gradually until he gets back into game shape," said Chua after beating the FedEx Express, 77-71, last Wednesday.

That victory solidified the Realtors' hold of the solo lead at 4-1 in Group A, two full games ahead of the second-running Express (2-4) in their division.

The Realtors' strong record without him also takes away the pressure off the high-scoring Duremdes in the 4 p.m. encounter.

"There's no pressure for him to deliver. When he didn't play the past five games, some of my players took the initiative to step up," said Chua.

Nate James, Marlou Aquino and Dennis Espino got a reliable support crew composed of Paolo Mendoza, Francis Adriano, Chito Victolero and Gerard Francisco.

The return of Duremdes, however, gives the Realtors added depth in the backcourt as they try to fend off an expected monstrous game from man-mountain Asi Taulava and Talk 'N Text import Damien Cantrell.

Both unsuccessful in their recent outings, the Alaska Aces and the FedEx Express try to get back on the winning track in the second game at 6:30 p.m.

Meanwhile in Calape, Bohol, Barangay Ginebra leaned on its big guys as the Gin Kings overpowered the Shell Turbochargers, 110-96, last night at the Herrera Sports Complex.

Ricky Price, Alex Crisano and Romel Adducul dominated the Turbochargers inside, as they turned in double-double performances for the Gin Kings' fourth win in six outings.

"There was an obvious mismatch in the paint. We pounced on it and it paid off," said the 6-foot-8 Crisano, who banged in 16 points and grabbed 10 rebounds in the game sponsored by Air Philippines.

Price topscored with 19 points and had 11 rebounds while the 6-foot-6 Adducul shot a career-high 18 points and hauled down 10 rebounds as the Gin Kings snapped a two-game skid.

The Turbochargers took their fourth setback in six games.

Scores:

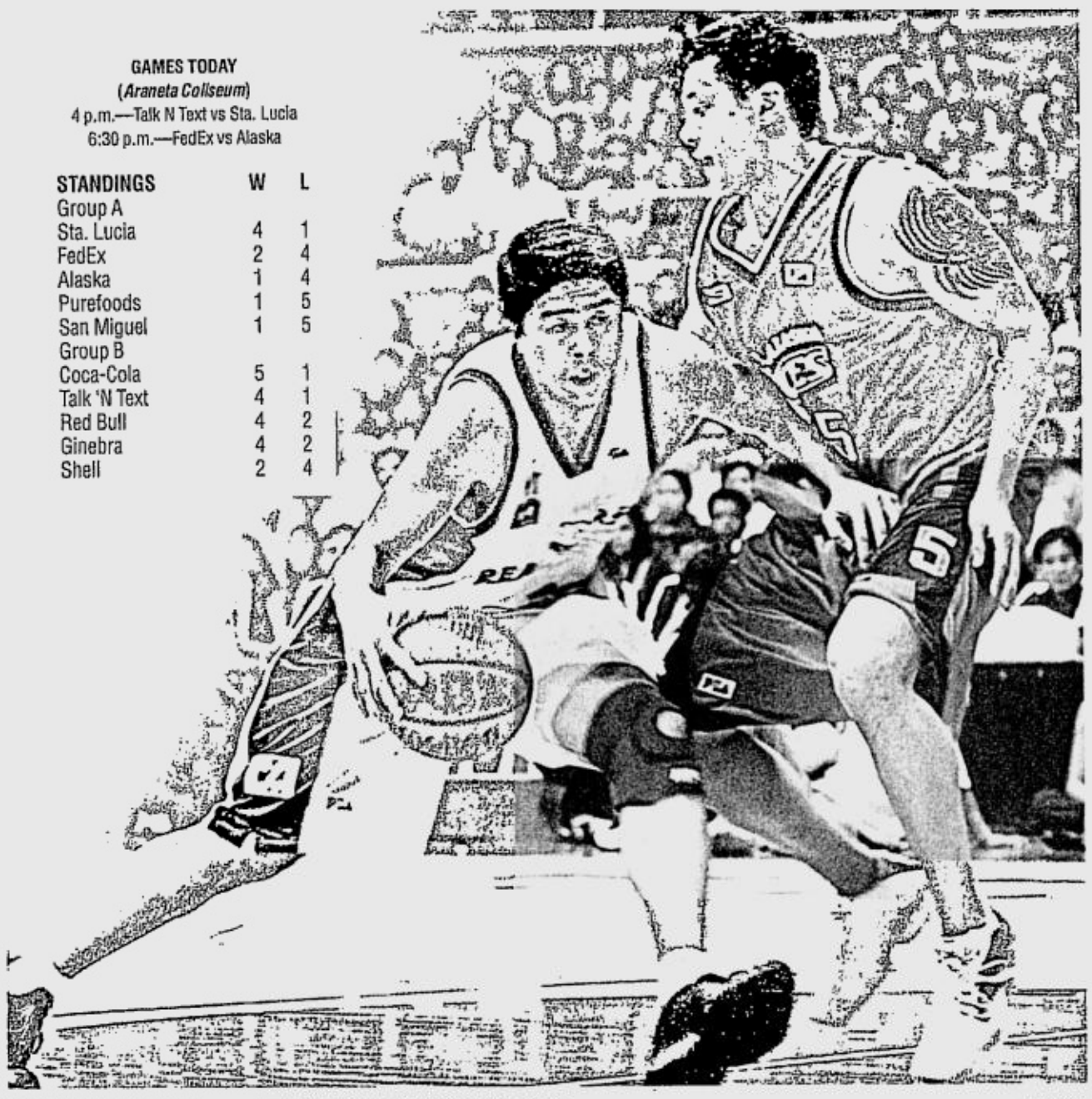
GINEBRA 110—Price 19, Adducul 18, Caguioa 17, Crisano 16, Limpot 16, Salvacion 10, Dimaunahan 7, David 4, Johnson 2, Calpito 1

SHELL 96—Dela Cruz 20, Laure 18, Bajar 16, Singson 12, Calaguio 11, Breaux 10, Jackson 5, Bacani 2, Canlas 1, Tubid 1, Marzan 0, Sta. Maria 0

Quarters: 28-25, 57-46, 81-71, 110-96.

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
4 p.m.—Talk N Text vs Sta. Lucia
6:30 p.m.—FedEx vs Alaska

STANDINGS	W	L
Group A		
Sta. Lucia	4	1
FedEx	2	4
Alaska	1	4
Purefoods	1	5
San Miguel	1	5
Group B		
Coca-Cola	5	1
Talk 'N Text	4	1
Red Bull	4	2
Ginebra	4	2
Shell	2	4



DUREMDES (left) drives against Rob Duat of Alaska in file photo. PDI PHOTO

Sta. Lucia Tour slated Oct. 2-4 in Palos Verdes

WITH the addition of the Caliraya Springs Golf and Country Club, thrilling battles for leg and overall honors loom in the 2003 Sta. Lucia Tour set to kick off at the challenging Palos Verdes Golf and Country Club in Davao on Oct. 2-4.

The inclusion of Caliraya Springs increases participation to six major clubs in the unique nationwide series, which features golf clubs operating under the umbrella of the real estate giant Sta. Lucia Realty Development Corp. This year's Sta. Lucia Tour will have its biggest-ever field with Eagle Ridge, Orchard, Alta Vista and Royale Tagaytay fielding 12 teams each, Palos Verdes sending seven and Caliraya at least five.

They will vie for the Sta. Lucia Cup in a 108-hole, six-round competition to be played in four different courses. The second leg will be hosted by Alta Vista on Nov. 6-8 and final stage to be jointly hosted by Eagle Ridge and Orchard on Dec. 4-6.

Spicing up the Tour which has Marco Polo for Davao, Marriot for Cebu and Dusit Hotel Nikko for Manila as partner hotels, Samsung and Yamaha as hole-in-one sponsors and Cebu Pacific as the official carrier, is the Titleist/Footjoy Shootout at Royale Tagaytay on Dec. 4.

Comprising each participating club are four-man teams which will vie for team and individual honors for each regional leg. Teams will battle for supremacy according to handicap classifications in Groups I, II and III while individual awards will be handed out to the top finishers in Class A, Class B, Class C and Class D.

At the end of the season, the delegation with the best combined aggregate in all team divisions will be awarded the Sta. Lucia Cup. Eagle Ridge won the first two legs but its three-peat bid was foiled by Alta Vista last year.

Vicente Santos and Winfred Gob, co-chair of the executive committee managing the Sta. Lucia Tour, said that trophies will be tough to win with the field more evenly balanced and bigger in number.

"There will be no less than 240 players for each leg and we believe that more than the competition, the Sta. Lucia Tour has gone beyond its original design and is now a big boost to domestic tourism," said Santos and Gob.

Participation in the Sta. Lucia Tour is partly subsidized by the realty firm where even companions are given substantial discounts on airfare and hotel accommodations.

Fight ref gets kayoed

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IF you think you know that much about boxing, you are mistaken, buddy. Listen my friend. Even Bong Barrameda, the nation's trivia king, is unaware of it. I'm talking of a fight that saw the referee get knocked out. A first in a world title bout.

OK, before I give you the referee's name, ever heard of Jesse Abramson? He was America's No. 1 sportswriter in his day. Abramson is described as "the best all-around, or pound-for-pound, sports reporter of his time." A classic boxing story of his was published in the New York Herald Tribune on June 26, 1952; it was about the bizarre defeat of the legendary Sugar Ray Robinson at the hands of Joey Maxim. Below is the lead paragraph of his story:

"In a weird and sensational finish to a duel of champions fought in brutal heat that registered 104 degrees under the Yankee Stadium lights on the hottest June 25 in New York history, Sugar Ray Robinson collapsed on his stool in the corner and could not come out for the fourteenth round when he had an unbeatable lead over Joey Maxim and a third world championship virtually in his grasp."

Quite a bit long for a lead paragraph, you might say?

Maybe. But the year was 1952. Every generation has its own distinct character. What might be ugly today could be undoubtedly beautiful yesterday.

To continue with Abramson:

"Sugar Ray could not beat that furnace heat and the fifteen and a half pounds he gave away to the light heavyweight champion. All he had to do was last the limit. But the brilliant middleweight champion, who had made all the fight for thirteen rounds, outpunching and outboxing the plodding, dull defender, exhausted himself by carrying all the fighting load on this roasting, burning night.

"Maxim, who did nothing to deserve this Christmas gift in June except to stand up in that furnace, retained his 175-pound crown in his second defense of it and balked Sugar Ray's gallant attempt to become the third triple champion of the Queensberry era.

"It was a knockout in the fourteenth round for Maxim—the fourteenth round because the bell rang for that round while all his seconds and Dr. Alexander Schiff were still working over the worn-out lighter man. It was the first knockout, such as it was, ever scored against the great Robinson in 137 professional fights of which he had lost only two previously.

"Robinson wasn't the only victim of the stove-box which the Yankee Stadium was last night. For the first time in the history of championship fights, a referee was knocked out, too. Ruby Goldstein, the referee, began to show distress in the tenth round from his burdensome task of chasing around the ring and repeatedly breaking the fighters out of clinches by force. He took a restorative from the doctor while he pranced around the ring.

"But at the end of the tenth round, referee Goldstein, on the verge of collapse, was helped from the torture chamber under those 38,500 watts of photo-flood lamps. Ray Miller replaced him in the eleventh round, the first substitute referee that ever was in a title bout.

"All Sugar Ray needed was a relief pitcher, too.

"It was a heartbreaking blow to the hopes of the 31-year-old New Yorker, so long acclaimed the best and most resourceful fighter of his day. But he had to go fifteen rounds this night, and he failed to pace himself properly, or failed in the end to handle the weight of the bigger man. Maxim did little in this fight except to catch it, but his strength and wrestling and mauling in the interminable clinches and his digs to the body, though they carried little power or authority, helped to weaken the gallant challenger.

"Robinson, an authentic middleweight, who, of course, is still the middleweight champion of the world, weighed 157-1/2 pounds to Maxim's 173."

For space limitations, I had to cut Abramson's story. But in it contained the judges' scorecards giving Robinson 10 rounds against Maxim's 3 before Robinson collapsed on his stool and failed to come out for the 14th round when the bell rang to signal resumption of the fight. (Back then, a world title fight was scheduled for 15 rounds.) A 14th-round knockout win it was for Maxim, who did nothing but wrestle Robinson down for the most part of the fight.

Indeed, boxing is sports' most colorful forum that it never runs out of interesting, if not weird, stories. Whether it be today, or yesterday.

***

FASTBREAK. I raise a glass to Ralph Roy, who, I heard, had just clinched for Solar Sports the exclusive television coverage of the Pacquiao-Barrera fight on Nov. 15 in the United States. The deal could mean Ed Picson, Hermie Rivera and I would be reunited to annotate the fight at Solar Sports' home studios here? I'm not about to give a no for an answer, Pareng Ed. Why, the last time out (Lewis-Klitchko fight), your *kalderetang kambing* was a knockout!

Curtains fall on Golf Show

THE CURTAINS fall on the eighth edition of the Philippine International Golf Show today at the SM Megatrade Hall 2 in Mandaluyong with hundreds of exhibitors set to unleash promotional gimmicks and the traditional final-day sale.

As thousands of golfers and curious onlookers visited the huge exhibition area to view new products out of the factories of the world's biggest equipment and apparel brands, turf and maintenance care, real estate projects and many more, Show organizers said the closing day splash will even be a bigger treat.

Gerald Raymundo, president of the Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines (GDAP), said that turnover during the first two days have been impressive and the Show has served as one big meeting place for the local golfing community.

"There's no show bigger than ours in the region and basing on the visitors count as of yesterday, we already got the numbers we wanted and the exhibitors got the exposure they wished for," said Raymundo.

Sponsoring this year's Golf Show which is managed by Fairs&More are Berocca, Lexber Holidays Int'l, Continental Airlines, New Pagcor/Casino Filipino, Mr. Donut, Coppertone and Bravo Restaurant. Cooperating Associations are the NGAP, the Philipping Turfgrass Association and Vantage as the official registration systems provider.

Last Friday, Comelec chair and Wack Wack president Ben Abalos and Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain graced the opening rites where the legendary Bantam Ben Arda was also conferred the Personality of the Year award by the GDAP.

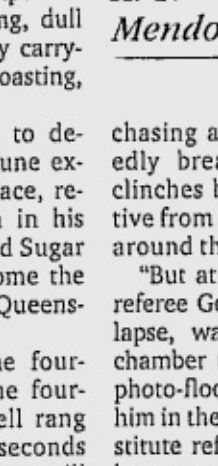
Schrempf cage clinic winds up in Olongapo

THE DETLEF Schrempf Foundation stages the final day of the adidas Understand the Game Campaign, a basketball diplomacy exchange program to promote positive aspects of American culture in the Philippines, today in Olongapo City.

The foundation, headed by former NBA star Detlef Schrempf, is a non-profit special event fundraising organization partially funded by a grant from the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Participated in by more than 180 young cagers, the clinic will be held at the Triangle Park in Olongapo City.

"We are very honored to have Mr. Schrempf and his foundation as one of our partners for our adidas Integrated Sports Marketing Program. We are very sure that the combined skills of his team will help hone the talents of the Filipino basketeers," said John Alonte, managing director for adidas Philippines.



SCHREMPF

Sponsors include the National Basketball Association, People to People Sports Ambassadors and the United States Basketball Academy. Other backers are Shell, Globe-Gentext, Snickers chocolate bar, Isuzu, Powerade and adidas body fragrance.

Schrempf will also be conducting basketball camps at The Fort and at the Sentrum of La Salle Lipa.

With members of the Diplomatic Team immersed in the Philippine culture, the participants will create local ties with community groups and organizations magnifying their impact.

"As a product of a sports exchange program, I know the direct impact sports can have in facilitating dialogue and cultural understanding," said Schrempf.

"Even before we started the UTG project I have always been involved with adidas basketball camps. And we are truly honored to have this opportunity to visit the beautiful and diverse country of the Philippines and to help the United States build relationships with its people," he added.

Ateneo coach hits UAAP decision

From page A25

Archers are more concerned with making adjustments for Tuesday's rubber match at the Araneta Coliseum.

"After all, there will still be five men for La Salle and five men for Ateneo on Tuesday," Pumaren said.

"It is going to be a very exciting series," said Lipa, who vowed to come up with strict officiating. "But I promised everybody that the game will be decided by the players and coaches and not by the referees." *With a report from Dennis U. Eroa*

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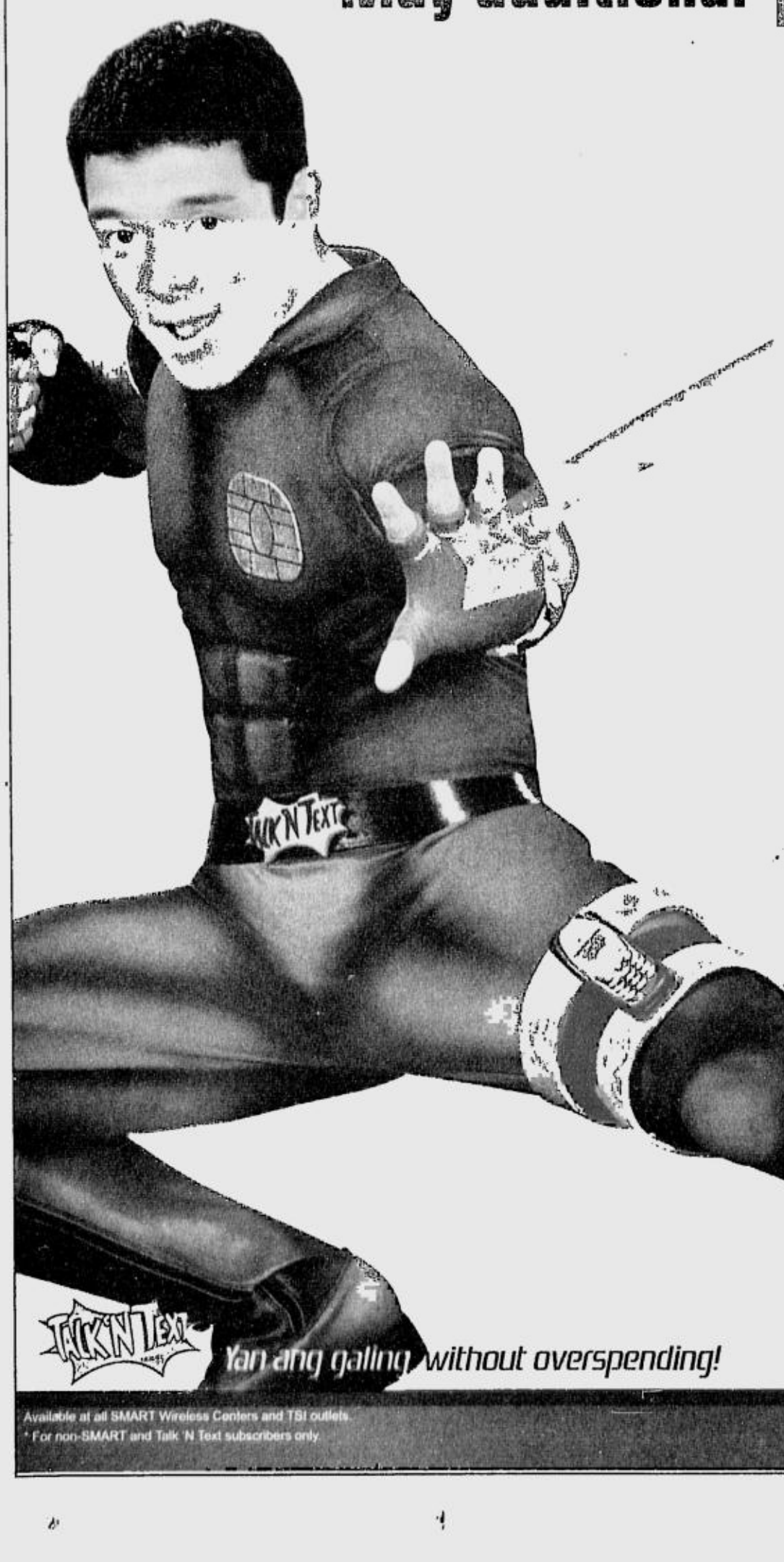

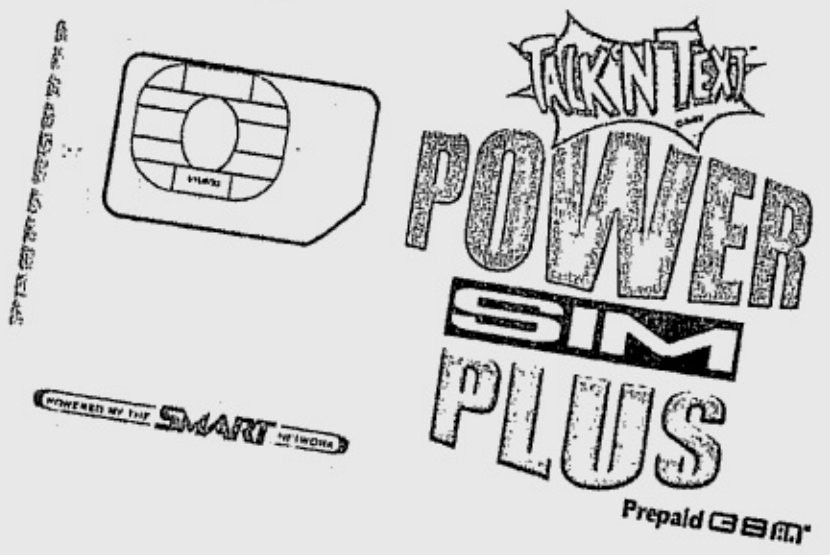

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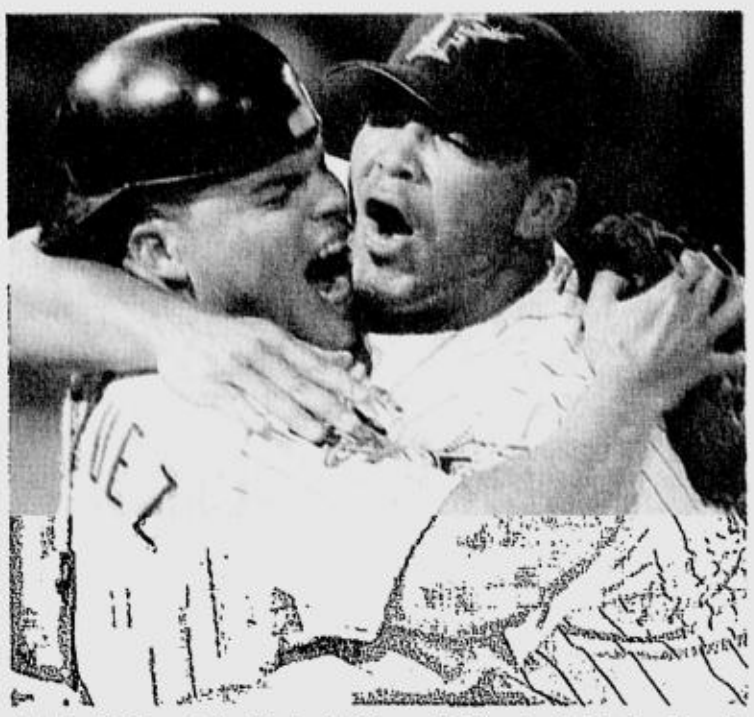
Marlins clinch first playoff seat since '97



Florida Marlins catcher Pudge Rodriguez (left) and relief pitcher Ugueth Urbina hug each other after the Marlins beat the New York Mets, 4-3. AP

MIAMI—Juan Pierre stole two bases and singled three times to spur the Florida Marlins over the New York Mets, 4-3, Friday to clinch their first playoff berth since winning the 1997 World Series.

The Marlins will face the National League West champion Giants in a best-of-five series beginning Tuesday in San Francisco.

"We're happy to get in, but this is just the beginning," said Derrek Lee, who drove in two runs. "We want to go deep in the playoffs."

Leadoff batter Pierre, a catalyst all season, set a team record with 64 stolen bases, reached a career high with 203 hits and played a part in Florida's first three runs.

The Marlins trailed Philadelphia in the wild-card race last Saturday, but pulled away with five consecutive wins. At 90-70, they're 20 games above .500 for the first time since '97.

With the win, Florida eliminated the Houston Astros and Chicago Cubs, still vying for the NL Central title, from wild-card contention.

In Philadelphia, Horacio Ramirez pitched six sharp innings as Atlanta moved closer to clinching home-field advantage throughout the NL playoffs with a 6-0 victory over Philadelphia in the final night game at Veterans Stadium.

Meanwhile, in Detroit, Michael Cuddyer hit the first pitch of the 11th inning into the left-field seats and the Minnesota Twins beat Detroit, 5-4, Friday night, putting the Tigers one defeat from tying the modern-day record for losses.

If Detroit (41-119) loses Saturday or Sunday against the Twins, the Tigers will tie the post-1900 record of 120 losses set by the 1962 New York Mets. *AP*

Nuggets sign up Japanese

DENVER—Japanese guard Yuta Tabuse has joined the NBA after signing with the Denver Nuggets, the team announced Friday.

Tabuse, from Yokohama, played for Division II BYU-Hawaii from 2000-2002 before joining the Toyota Alvark of the Japan Basketball League last season.

The 1.75-meter (5-foot-9) Tabuse also played in six games in the Rocky Mountain Revue for the Dallas Mavericks last summer, averaging 4.5 points, 1.7 rebounds and 1.0 assists in 13 minutes.

Japan's Yasutaka Okayama was drafted by the Golden State Warriors in 1981, but didn't join the team. *AP*

Daniel ties Sorenstam mark

PORTLAND, Oregon—Beth Daniel shot a 10-under 62 to take a four-stroke lead after the first round of the LPGA Safeway Classic and tie the course record set by defending champion Annika Sorenstam.

Daniel, who earlier this year became the oldest player to win on the LPGA Tour, birdied seven of the last nine holes Friday at the 6,327-yard Columbia Edgewater Country Club course.

Grace Park and Cristie Kerr were tied for second at 66, while Sorenstam, who played in the same threesome as Daniel, was another stroke back.

"Everything just went right for me," said Daniel, who won the Canadian Women's Open in July at age 46 for her 33rd career title and first since 1995.

The LPGA Hall of Famer didn't have to putt from farther than 14 feet on her last four birdies of the round. Her first one of the day was a 36-footer on No. 6.

Meanwhile, in San Antonio, Texas, Tommy Armour III capped a 62 with a birdie on the 18th hole Friday and held a one-stroke lead over Dan Forsman, who hit three tee shots on his final hole, after the second round of the Texas Open.

Armour's 14-under 126 on the La Cantera Golf Club course was the lowest two-round score on the PGA Tour this year.

"You know, what can you say? It's going where I'm aiming," said Armour, whose best finish this year was a tie for 11 in this month's Bell Canadian Open. "The course is in great shape, the greens are perfect. . . . It's a birdiefest."

Forsman had a 63 Friday and was one shot in front of Tim Clark (63). K.J. Choi (62), Tom Lehman (63), Hal Sutton (63), Paul Goydos (64) and Charles Howell (64) were all at 129.

In St. Andrews, Scotland, Irishmen Darren Clarke and Peter Lawrie, and David Howell of England shared the lead Friday after two rounds of the Dunhill Links Championship.

All three shot 4-under-par 68s to go 9-under for the two rounds.

Clarke carded his score on The Old Course at St. Andrews. Howell and Lawrie played Kingsbarns.

A group of four were one shot behind—Irishman Gary Murphy, former British Open winner Paul Lawrie, New Zealand's Michael Campbell and Henrik Bjornstad of Norway.

Ernie Els, the leader of the European Order of Merit just ahead of Clarke, bounced back from a level-par opening round to shoot a 7-under-par 65 on The Old Course. *AP, AFP*

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BASKETBALL: NBA Greatest Game-Lakers vs Sixers, Game 6, 1980 Finals; 8 a.m.; Solar Sports—Do you believe in Magic? Watch and be mesmerized as rookie Earvin Johnson scores 42 points to help Los Angeles deny Philadelphia a chance to extend the series.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

SPORTSWATCH

Srichaphan, Moya bundled out

SRICHAPHAN AFP

NONTHABURI, Thailand—World No. 6 and third seed Carlos Moya of Spain was bundled out of the US$550,000 Thailand Open tennis tournament on Friday after losing, 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-4, to fifth seed Jarkko Nieminen of Finland. Moya's countryman, world No. 1 Juan Carlos Ferrero, had to work hard to escape the same fate, struggling at times to defeat an inspired Gregory Carraz of France, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (2), at the Impact Arena in the Bangkok suburb of Nonthaburi. In the day's last single's match, home team fans were crestfallen when sixth-seeded Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia stunned Thailand's fourth-seeded Paradorn Srichaphan, 4-6, 7-6 (4), 7-5. In Shanghai, China, top-seeded Jiri Novak and Wimbledon finalist Mark Philippoussis overpowered their opponents to advance Saturday to the final of the US$580,000 ATP Heineken Open. Strong serves dominated early in the match as Novak of the Czech Republic beat unseeded Wayne Arthurs of Australia, 6-7 (7), 6-2, 6-3. In the other semifinal, Australian No. 3 seed Philippoussis aced Sweden's Robin Soderling in straight sets, 6-4, 6-4, improving to 35-16 on the year. *AP*

Henin-Hardenne bucks injury

LEIPZIG, Germany—US Open champion Justine Henin-Hardenne overcame shoulder troubles Friday to sweep past Countrywoman Els Callens, 6-2, 6-4, at the Sparkassen Cup. Henin-Hardenne needed 64 minutes to reach the semifinals, while world No. 1 Kim Clijsters also advanced, 6-1, 6-3, against Switzerland's Patty Schnyder. Henin-Hardenne, also fighting a bad back, had her right shoulder iced between games in her first tournament since winning the US Open three weeks ago. In her semifinal, Clijsters faces third-seeded Anastasia Myskina, who beat fellow Russian Nadia Petrova, 6-7 (5), 6-1, 6-1. Henin-Hardenne plays qualifier Maria Vento-Kabchi, who advanced when Czech player Sandra Kleinova suffered a hamstring injury while leading, 6-0, 3-1. *AP*

Tioseco shines in Superbike meet

LONE female Desmo racer Love-Love Tioseco still managed to catch up and finish fifth place despite an overshot crash during the recent Ducati Cup superbike races held at the Batangas Racing Circuit. Tioseco's feat helped the Ducati Desmo Team capture top honors. Other members of the winning squad were Toti Alberto, Victor Velasquez, Phillip Alvendia, Robert Cervantes, Miggy Cervantes, Renato Fernandez and Manny Angeles. Tioseco used her powerful 162-horsepower Ducati 998 Vee-Two Race Special for the event. She is supported by Col. Nanding Pace of the Luzon Motorcyclists Federation Inc., Executive Riders Club and Ducati Desmo Owners Club.

Subic triathlon meet set Oct. 25

CORE Events Asia will hold Asia's toughest and best endurance race billed as the "Subaru Forester Enduraman Subic Triathlon Challenge" on Oct. 25. The 3.8-km swim, 180-km bike and 42-km run will be a spectacle to behold as it will be the first ever long distance triathlon on Philippine soil. The event is sponsored by General Motors Philippines, Kymco Motors, Snickers, Monoc Bikes, Suunto, Salomon, San Remo, Briko, Optic Nerve, Subic International Hotel, Business World Online, MTV Ink and Pulp. Visit www. coreeventasia or call 0916-6157560 and 0917-8197587 for more details.

Big field joining LGBA tourney

SOME 90 entries are joining the coming 1st Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) 7-Stag Derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit on Oct. 21, 23 and 25. Backing up the derby are sponsors Washout Shampoo, Pitfighter Feeds, Thunderbird Enertone, Derby Ace, Amtyl 500, Supremo Pellets and Strike Power Pellets. Other LGBA derbies are set Nov. 4, 6 and 8 (second leg); Nov. 11 and 13 (third leg) and Nov. 18 and 20 (finals). Meanwhile, LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz announced yesterday that the group's general meeting for 2003-2004, will be held on Oct. 4, 7 p.m., at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City. Interested parties may contact Roligon at 833-2275 or 833-1638 or LGBA secretariat at 911-8969.

Fistorama fights shown today on 9

SAMSUNG'S Fistorama today features the bantamweight fight between Rey Guinto and Roland Econas in four rounds and the lightflyweight fight between Wyndel Janiola and Rolando Baclayo in 10 rounds. The fights were held recently at the Ormoc Superdome in Ormoc City. It will be aired today at 3 p.m. on RPN 9. Fistorama is backed by Samsung Electronics Phils. Corp. and Cebu Pacific.

TOP FINISHERS

Edgesports' George Apacible (center) raises his trophy after sweeping the Formula Toyota Cup recently in the 2003 Casino Filipino Grand Prix sponsored by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Toyota Motors Phils., Kilton Motors, MOF Company, Norkis Yamaha, Pagcor Sports and Addict Mobile at the Batangas Racing Circuit. Joining him in the winner's podium are runner-up Arvin Drueco of Casino Filipino-AF3 Edgesport-Caltex (left) and BRC track manager Zaldy Rodriguez.

BIG DOME BATTLE

Derby top guns join 8-stag tilt

AN EXCITING battle of cockfighting heavyweights is fast shaping up in the upcoming Grand National Championship 8-Stag Derby on Nov. 10, 12 and 14 at the air-conditioned Araneta Coliseum, according to National Cockers Association top guns Rep. Rudy Albano, Eddie Araneta and Gov. Ito Ynares.

This materialized after the powerhouse Negros Occidental team of 20 breeders confirmed their participation. They will be bannered by Johnny Jalandoni, Jun Cometa, Boy Velez and Boy Nilo Lizares.

"The Negros breeders are eager to prove once and for all who is the real champion when it comes to sabong. We're the first and the original and this is our game," Lizares said.

Lizares' comment is apparently a direct challenge to their bitter rivals from Southern Tagalog, particularly sabong idol Patrick Antonio and Ucap back-to-back Stagfighter winner Sonny Lagon.

"This is one event that aficionados should not miss," said Araneta, a former World Slasher Cup champion who is himself a popular Luzon breeder.

But before the Negros and Southern Tagalog breeders could entertain the thought of entering the finals, they will have to contain Metro Manila's Jake and Butch Macasaet, who currently possess the biggest number of stag derby winners after emerging as champions in three stag derbies so far.

Looming as darkhorses are former Rep. Peping Cojuangco, Esting Teopaco and Boy Jiao of Central Luzon.

So retains kiddies' division lead

SOUTHERN Luzon champion Wesley So downed Western Visayas' Ariel Cornel yesterday to remain atop the kiddies' division of the 2003 Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship at the Social Security System Canteen in Quezon City.

So, a Grade IV student at Jesus Good Shepherd School in Bacoor, Cavite, outplayed Cornel in an exciting King's Indian Attack game, immediately gaining a two-pawn advantage for his sixth win in seven games. With the victory, the 10-year old So hiked his total to 6.5 points, a full point ahead of Mindanao's Jay Bulicatin, who downed NCR's Wilbert Pilarta in the second board.

Kareristas wait for Philracom decision

WHEN will the Philracom render its decision on the Alfredo Po-Dennis Camañero gun-pointing, err . . . cellular phone-pointing incident?

The *bayang karerista* is waiting and getting impatient because up to now, the racing body under Jimmy Dilag appears to be groping in the dark because they still can't provide the results of the probe of the incident which utterly tainted the image of the local racing industry.

Yes, all *kareristas* agreed with Manolo "Clean Living" Iñigo when he said in his Sept. 15 column: "If they want to save the horse racing industry, Dilag and his commissioners should render a fair, honest and impartial decision by punishing those people who are giving the sport a big blackeye."

Let's hope the Philracom is listening.

***

So Last Hazm wound up last and Don Paolo barely hung on to win last Sunday's second leg of the Juvenile Colts Championship.

Some said Last Hazm's bid to take the lead early was "suicidal," causing him to fade out as early as mid-backstretch.

My Silip Boy said he agrees to others' remarks that it could have been a different story had Last Hazm mirrored what he did in the first leg.

"*Sumunud-sunod lang sana uli at nagpalakas pagpasok ng rekta baka iba ang naging resulta*," said one observer.

Don Paolo, on the other hand, took Last Hazm's role in the fist leg although he was nearly caught at the wire by Sir Brendan Jean.

In another twist in that exciting race last week, Sir Brendan Jean was supposed to be the one who'll chase Don Paolo from the outset but was outbroken, becoming the *de-remate* instead.

With that as backdrop, everyone's now looking forward to the third leg of the series where all three are expected to collide again.

We heard the Hermie Esguerra Stable is devising a new strategy for Last Hazm, who, many also said, lost because of his unfamiliarity with the San Lazaro Leisure Park track.

Sir Brendan Jean's handlers are also said to be coming up with a new plan as they bid

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

to put the colt in tip-top shape come the next stage.

Meantime, Don Paolo's connections are hoping to score another win that would certainly install him as the horse to beat in other upcoming juvenile contests late this year, particularly in the Philtobo Mitra Cup on Nov. 2 and Marho Breeders' Cup on Nov. 23.

Experts are saying that Don Paolo should be tougher in his next outings.

"*Nabatak siya nang husto noong huling takbo. Pag nakauna, matibay. Pag naunahan, nakakasunod. Pag sinabayan naman tiyak ubos din yung lulutsa*," noted one railbird.

***

The Rudy Mendoza Stable is also hoping that I Love This Game could bounce back in the third leg of the Juvenile Fillies after finishing a dull sixth last week.

"*Parang ayaw tumakbo sa balya*," said Nick Atienza of the galloper which he co-trains with Rudy Mendoza. "Hopefully *sa* third leg *makabawi*."

I Love This Game was named after the NBA slogan, emphasizing Paolo Mendoza's love for basketball.

He and his *Tatay* Rudy had earlier named a colt Iverson, one of Paolo's idols. A few years back, they had a horse named Chicago Bulls who later became Windy City.

Incidentally, they are fielding in another "basketball-related" horse today—Flying Jordan, another Medium Cool progeny.

My Silip Boy and I will be at the Mokong's Grille to watch Flying Jordan in action in the opening sweepstakes race today.

We'll see if the horse can slam-dunk its way to the finish line.

***

E-mail One Winner at evillanueva@inquirer.com.ph or edongvilla@yahoo.com

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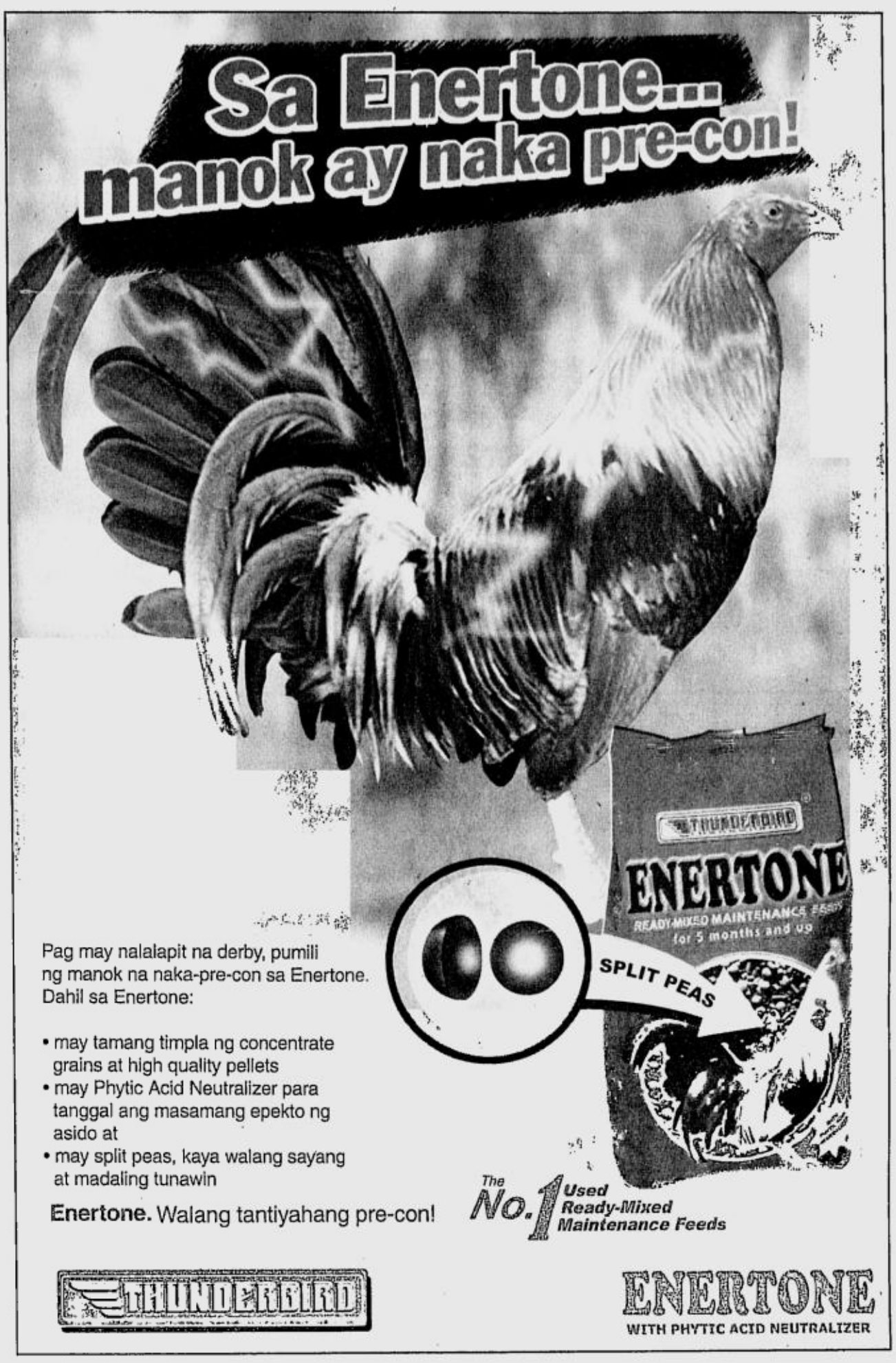

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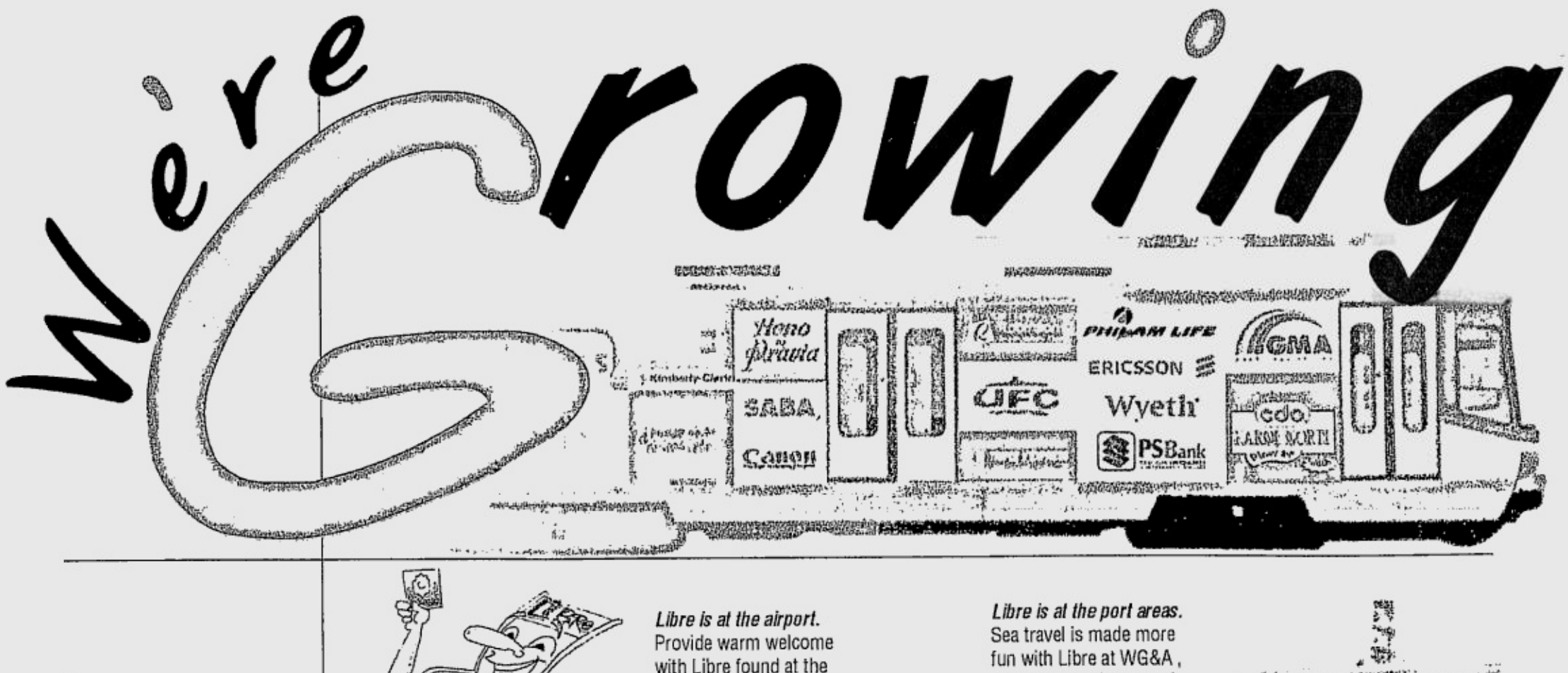

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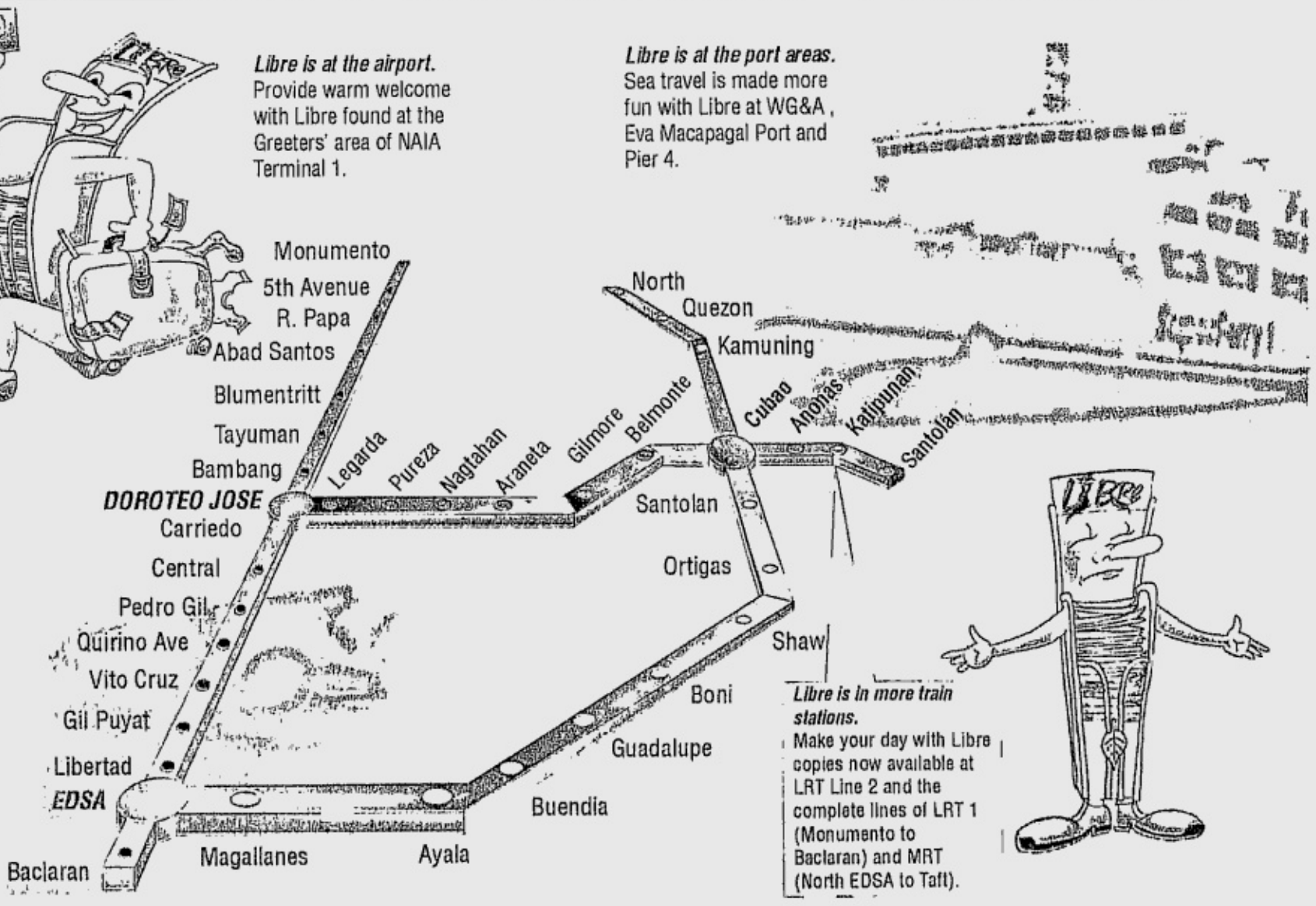

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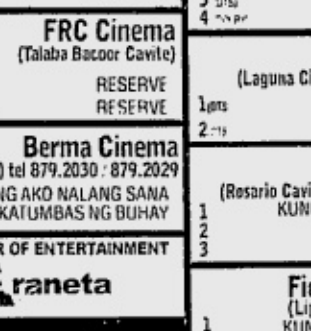

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1 THE MEDALLION
2 INNER SENSES
3 FIRST TIME
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
6 BASIC
7 FREDDY VS. JASON
8 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1
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SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1 BASIC
2 THE MEDALLION
3 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
5 FREDDY VS. JASON
6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
7 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
8 FIRST TIME

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
3 FREDDY VS. JASON
4 FIRST TIME
5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
3 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
4 FREDDY VS. JASON

SM BICUTAN
7763055

1 FREDDY VS. JASON
2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
3 BASIC
4 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO

SM CITY MARILAO
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1
2
3
4

SM STA. MESA
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1 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
3 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
4 FIRST TIME
5 FREDDY VS. JASON
6 ASBOOBS
7 THE MEDALLION
8 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
9 BASIC
10 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE

SM SOUTHMALL
8066088

1 BASIC
2 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
3 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
5 THE MEDALLION
6 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
7 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
8 FREDDY VS. JASON
9 FIRST TIME
10 INNER SENSES

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
2 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
4 FREDDY VS. JASON
5 S.W.A.T.
6 THE MEDALLION
7 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
8 BASIC
9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
10 DADDY DAY CARE
11 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
12 FIRST TIME

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1 S.W.A.T.
2 DADDY DAY CARE
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 BASIC
5 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
6 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS

SM CITY LUCENA
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2 BASIC
3 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
4 FREDDY VS. JASON
5 PEOPLE I KNOW
6 CINE EUROPA
7 NOWHERE IN AFRICA
8 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
10 THE MEDALLION
11 INNER SENSES
12 FIRST TIME

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 FREDDY VS. JASON
3 FIRST TIME
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 DADDY DAY CARE
2 RESERVED
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
5 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
6 S.W.A.T.
7 RESERVED
8 SPY KIDS 3-D

SM CITY MANILA
9239240

1 FREDDY VS. JASON
2 THE MEDALLION
3 BASIC
4 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
5 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
6 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
7 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
8 FIRST TIME
9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
10 S.W.A.T.
11 INNER SENSES
12 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
(088) 8592884

1 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
3 DADDY DAY CARE
4 S.W.A.T.

SM CITY BAGUIO
(074) 4464505

1
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3
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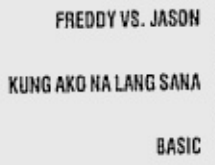
THE PODIUM

KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
10:50 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:55 END

ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
10:05 MF/12:10/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

September 26, 2004 Sunday

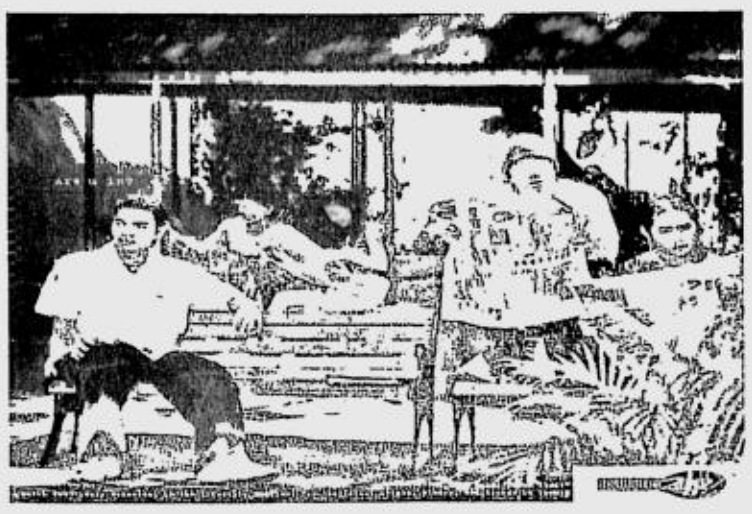
SM Megamall Cinema 6
CINE EUROPA



ADMISSION IS FREE

Profession of Arms (Germany) 2:00 p.m.
The Handcuff (Finland) 7:00 p.m.
The Others (Spain) 4:30 p.m.
Karnaval (France) 9:30 p.m.

Movies are subject to change without prior notice



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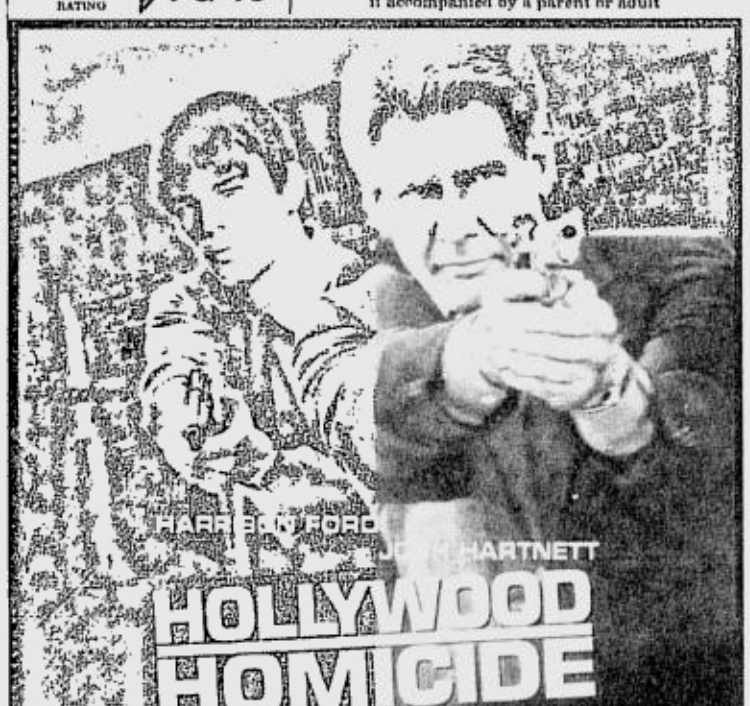

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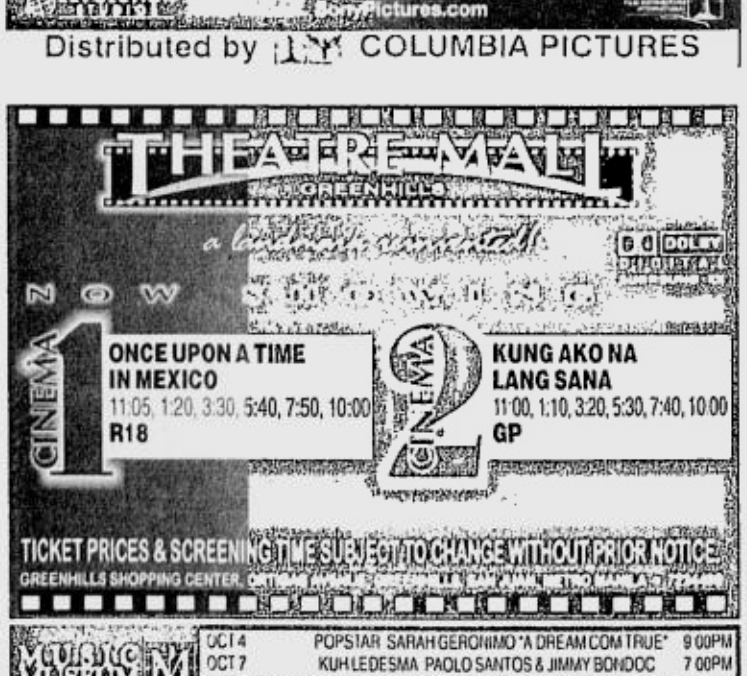

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OCT 4	POPSTAR SARAH GERONIMO "A DREAM COM TRUE"	9:00PM
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BASIC PG13 12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO R18 11:40, 1:45, 3:50, 6:00, 8:10, 10:20	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA GP 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
PEOPLE I KNOW R18 11:30, 1:30, 3:40 5:50, 8:00, 10:10	SPY KIDS 3D GP 11:40, 3:40, 7:40 DADDY DAY CARE GP 1:40, 5:40, 9:40	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE PG13 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

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2	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	5	FREDDY VS. JASON 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50
3	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	6	BASIC 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
7	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	9	NOWHERE IN AFRICA 10:30, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
8	PEOPLE I KNOW 12:05, 2:15, 4:30, 6:40, 9:00	10	INNER SENSES 12:05, 2:15, 4:30, 6:40, 9:00

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1 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
2 FREDDY VS. JASON 10:10, 12:05, 2:00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:40
3 THE MEDALLION 10:10, 12:05, 2:00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:40
4 PEOPLE I KNOW 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
5 INNER SENSES 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
6 BASIC 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
7 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

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1 FREDDY VS. JASON
2 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
5 BASIC
6 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
7 THE MEDALLION
8 1ST TIME

Novaliches 935-3229 / 31

1 THE MEDALLION
2 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
3 FREDDY VS. JASON
4 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
6 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
7 BASIC
8 1ST TIME

Star Mills (San Fernando Pampanga (045)875-1927 (045)961-5270)		Imus (046)471-8188 / 875-5858
KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA		ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2	1ST TIME	LIBAYA KATUMBAS NG BUHAY
3	VISIBLE SECRET	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4	MR. BONES	4 FREDDY VS. JASON
5	FREDDY VS. JASON	5 1ST TIME
ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO		6 THE MEDALLION

Bacolod (034)441-6458 59		Iloilo (033)336-8070 to 78
1	SPY KIDS 3D	1 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
2	LEGALLY BLONDE 2	2 S.W.A.T.
KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA		3 SPY KIDS 3D
4	DADDY DAY CARE	4 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
5	S.W.A.T.	5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN		6 DADDY DAY CARE

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ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO		LIBAYA KATUMBAS NG BUHAY
2	KALABIT	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA		KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4	1ST TIME	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
5	THE MEDALLION	

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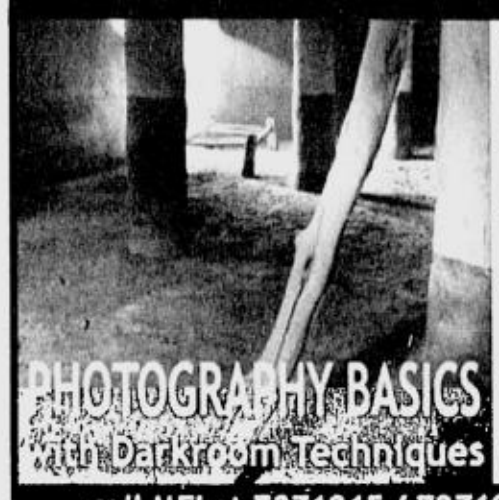

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2003

Sunday SPORTS

Tuñacao snares title

By Rey Danseco
Contributor

MALCOLM "Eagle Eye" Tuñacao knocked out Indonesian Ringo Jaguar to claim the vacant World Boxing Council (WBC) International superflyweight title before an elated crowd at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City Friday night.

Tuñacao, showing no ring rust from a 10-month layoff, caught the Indon with a hard left to the jaw just as the fifth round ended and the last-minute substitute for compatriot Ali Rohmad was counted out.

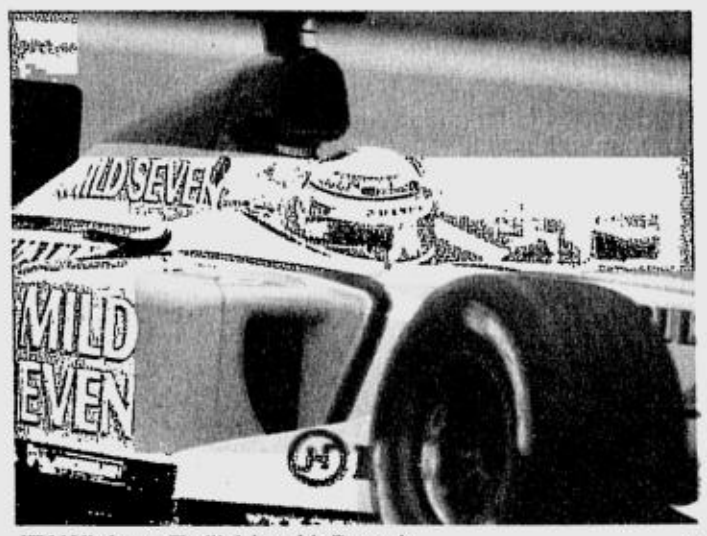
But Arman dela Cruz, also an instant replacement for Indon Iwan Key, proved a worthy substitute as he dethroned WBC International minimum weight champion Ernesto Rubillar by split decision in the other 12-round mainer.

Dela Cruz knocked down Rubillar in the first round and went on to win on the cards of Bruce McTavish (114-111) and Alex Villacampa (114-113). Lawyer Richard Flores saw it 114-111 for Rubillar.

Tuñacao, a former WBC flyweight champion, looked headed to a one-sided win in the 12-round bout when he unleashed his haymaker in the fifth round.

"I was surprised when I knocked him out," said Tuñacao in Cebuano after raising his record to 15 wins (11KOs) against a loss and two draws.

In other bouts, Libac, Sultan Kudarat's Alex Escaner, the RP No. 3 superbantamweight contender, dominated General Santos City's Mark Sales in 10 rounds; Cadiz City's Rexon Flores of Cadiz City won on points against Larry Mede of Baguio City over 10 rounds; 17-year old Ryan Beto of Bato, Southern Leyte knocked out minimum weight Adonis Bunyol of Caloocan City in the second; super-bantam Aaron Melgarejo decisioned Allan Cabejo of Mandaluyong City over four rounds; while junior fly Marlo Villamor and Benjie Abundar fought to a split draw in four rounds.



ITALY's Jarno Trulli drives his Renault. AP

Italian driver stuns field in qualifying

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana—Formula One points leader Michael Schumacher was undone by wet conditions here Friday as Italy's Jarno Trulli was the surprise leader in the United States Grand Prix's first qualifying session.

Reigning champion Schumacher, seeking an unprecedented sixth F1 crown, slid home eighth, meaning he will start Saturday's pole qualifying session three spots before his main rival for the title, Williams BMW's Juan Pablo Montoya.

Rain drenched the 4.192km course during practice, leaving conditions slick under overcast skies when Schumacher went first by virtue of his points edge.

"The morning rain made the circuit quite slippery for the first run," Schumacher said. "I'm still eighth. That's a reachable position for tomorrow."

Schumacher has 82 points, three ahead of Colombia's Montoya and seven atop Finland's Kimi Raikkonen, who will start just ahead of Schumacher on Saturday when qualifying runs are made in reverse order of Friday's results.

That should give Montoya an edge in trying to secure a superior starting spot in Sunday's 73-lap showdown.

The test for Schumacher will be to regain the form that has led him to five F1 triumphs this season.

"We're not worried," said Ross Brawn, Ferrari's technical director. "Michael took off when the track was still a bit green. The track got faster. It was just due to the conditions."

Schumacher completed his lap around the 13-turn, 4.192km course in 1:10.736, finishing .02 ahead of Raikkonen's McLaren Mercedes but .436 behind fifth-place Montoya.

Track speeds improved as the session continued, leaving Schumacher helpless as rivals took advantage of cool, overcast conditions at Indianapolis Motor Speedway until more rain slowed matters midway through the time trials. *AFP*

Marave, Silverio head AF3 series cast today

THE SEVENTH and eighth rounds of the Asian Formula 3 Series wind up today at the Autopolis Circuit in Oita, Japan.

Defending AF3 champion Mark Goddard of Castrol Ambi Pur Car Team Goddard powered by Opel, Kinetic F3 Racing Shell-Casino Filipino-Fila-Team Tom's Pepon Marave and Denso JF3 Racing's Richard Joson are seeing action in the International Class championship, while in the Promotional Class drew Jojo Silverio of the Castrol Ambi Pur Car Team Goddard, Mike Potenciano of Shell Casino Filipino FILA Team Tom's, Casino Filipino Fujitsu Ten Team Tom's Petron driver Enzo Pastor and Speedtech Asia's JP Tuason and Roland Hermoso.

The event is sponsored by Yokohama, Denso, RCL-Regional Container Lines, Pagcor Sports, PTA, DOT and PCSO.

It will be the first time for all the drivers on the high altitude track nestled in the hills of Hita-gun and features many high speed corners as well as sudden dips and climbs, that will put them to the test and make their ability to set up their cars extremely important. Needless to say, results in the Japanese rounds will be crucial to the championships.

Leading the International Class standings is Marave, who has 90 points, followed by Goddard with 87 and Joson with 54. The Promotional Class, meanwhile, is headed by Silverio with 90 points. He is hotly pursued by Potenciano with 75, Pastor with 62, Tuason with 48 and Hermoso with 37.

For more information on the Asian Formula 3 series 2003, log on to www.asian3.net.

Cebu netters swamp Osaka Circuit rivals

CEBU CITY—Campaigners from Team Cebu City stamped their class in the recent Osaka Iridology Junior Tennis Circuit held at the Cebu Country Club here.

Janjie Soquino led TCC's dominating performance by beating Jason Pinote, 7-5, 6-3 to capture the premier 18-and-under plum of this tournament that gathered the best players in the Cebu island and its neighboring provinces.

Other TCC members who won their respective divisions were Oswaldo Dumoran (boys' 16-under), Jin Querubin (girls' 14-under) and Sally Dine Siso (girls' 12-under).

TCC players are training under the care of the Cebu City Sports Commission headed by chair Jonathan Guardo, who is also the president of the organizing Osaka Iridology Group.

"I want to produce Cebuano tennis talents in both my capacity as a government official and a private supporter. In two years, I am confident that we will be able to produce players that will excel nationally and internationally," said Guardo.

The other winners include Jade Abangan who topped the girls' 18-under crown, Francis Largo (boys' 14-under), Louie Lloyd (Cañete (boys' 12-and-under) and John Paul Cabuhog (unisex 10-under).

The champions, who will be sent an international in Manila in December, received medals and trophies from Jonathan and Jaon Guardo, Osaka vice president.

The next leg will be held on Oct. 11-12 and 18-19 in preparation for the Cebuano netters' participation in the Palarong Pambansa.

Lina voted cycling president

AIR21 chair Bert Lina was voted president of the national federation for cycling, a post he will hold for the next four years.

Lina, whose company principally bankrolled the revival of the fabled Tour Pilipinas, was elected by the 15-member cycling federation board during its organizational meeting yesterday.

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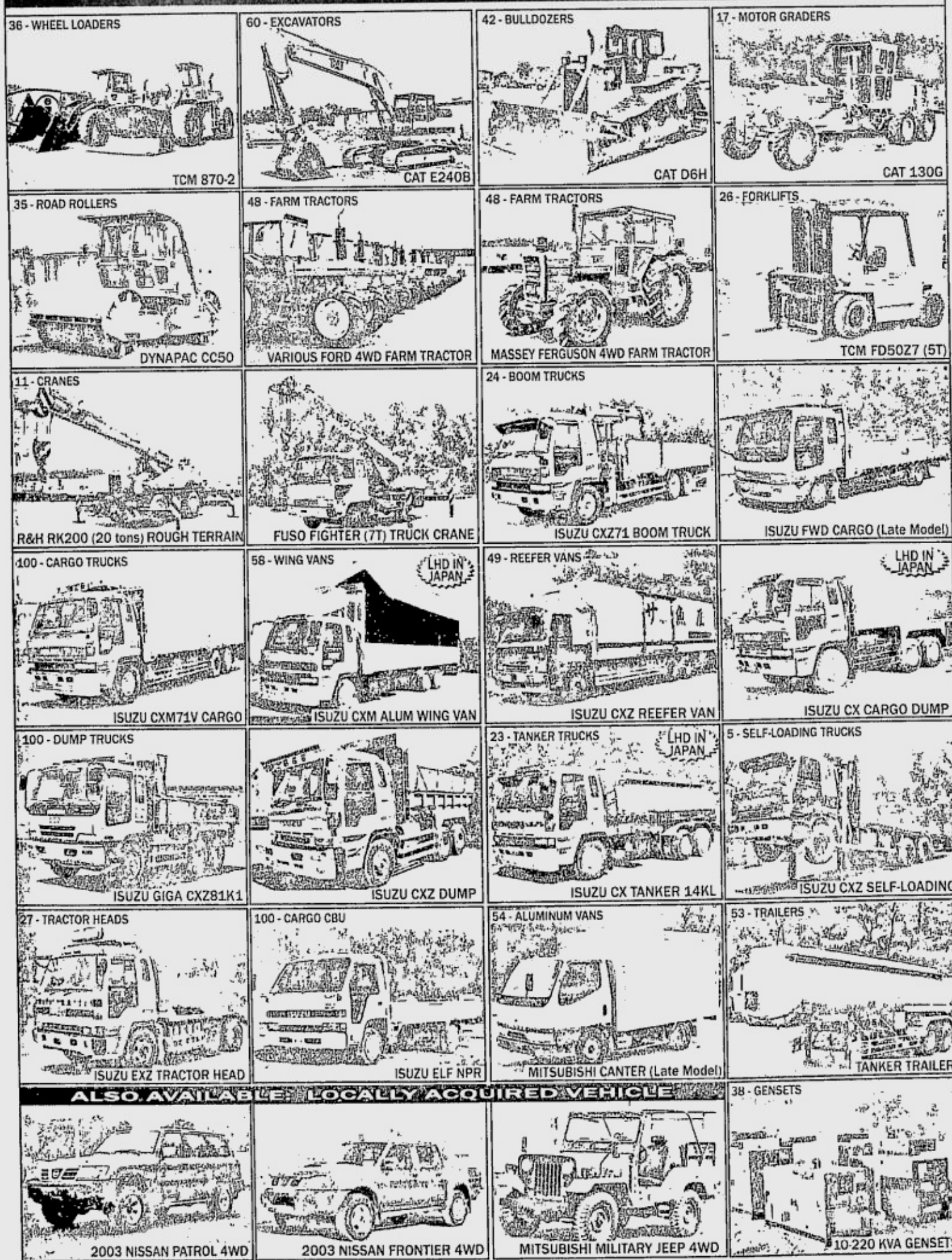

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Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Values learned at 17 created this 'Tower King'

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

DANILO E. Ignacio has sometimes been referred to as the "Tower King" because he supervised the on-time and on-budget construction of the Citibank and Philamlife Towers in the Makati central business district.

Now he is in charge of the high-rise buildings division of Robinsons Land Corp.

As general manager, Ignacio can afford more than a few luxuries in life but he has remained frugal, learning the value of money as a young boy helping his parents buy products from either Divisoria or Paco Market as early as 5 a.m. to be sold later in the Sta. Ana market.

"I come from a poor family. My parents were market vendors and I helped in the market in the morning and then study in the afternoon," Ignacio tells SundayBiz.

The hours of work did not get in the way of his studies, however, as his parents encouraged him to study hard and finish school even if he had to work his way through it.

IGNACIO circa 1973

Best legacy

"They considered education to be the best legacy they can give to their children. They encouraged me to excel in school. We were trained to answer all the questions at the end of each chapter to prepare for a test. I graduated valedictorian in high school and top of the class in college," Ignacio says.

FIRST JOB

It was during his second year at the Mapua Institute of Technology when Ignacio earned his first paycheck as a student-checker in the summer of 1967.

"My job was to check the attendance of the college professors twice every hour, 15 minutes after start of classes and 15 minutes before end of classes. I worked at night for four hours," he says.

"Later on, I was promoted to be the supervisor of all the student checkers up to the time I graduated. I worked eight hours during the day and then attended classes at night and on weekends. At the same time, to earn extra money, I also worked as a student-assistant of a Physics professor, checking test papers. Despite being a working student, I managed to maintain my college scholarship and graduated Cum Laude and Gold Medalist," Ignacio says.

Not for teaching

Ignacio says that the virtue of hard work that he learned from his parents and his drive for excellence helped him in his various jobs after finishing his degree in Electrical Engineering.

He started out as a teacher after graduation. It was after a year of teaching full time at the Mapua that he discovered that teaching was not the career for him, because even if the initial salary was high, there was very little opportunity for advancement.

Ignacio moved to the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., working initially as a planning engineer and later on promoted to staff planning supervisor and in 1976 he transferred to Citibank.

"I applied for a Finance Manager's position but was hired as a Premises Manager, responsible for managing all the facilities of the bank. This started my 20-year career in Citibank and I went up the corporate ladder to be a Vice President," he says.

Turning point

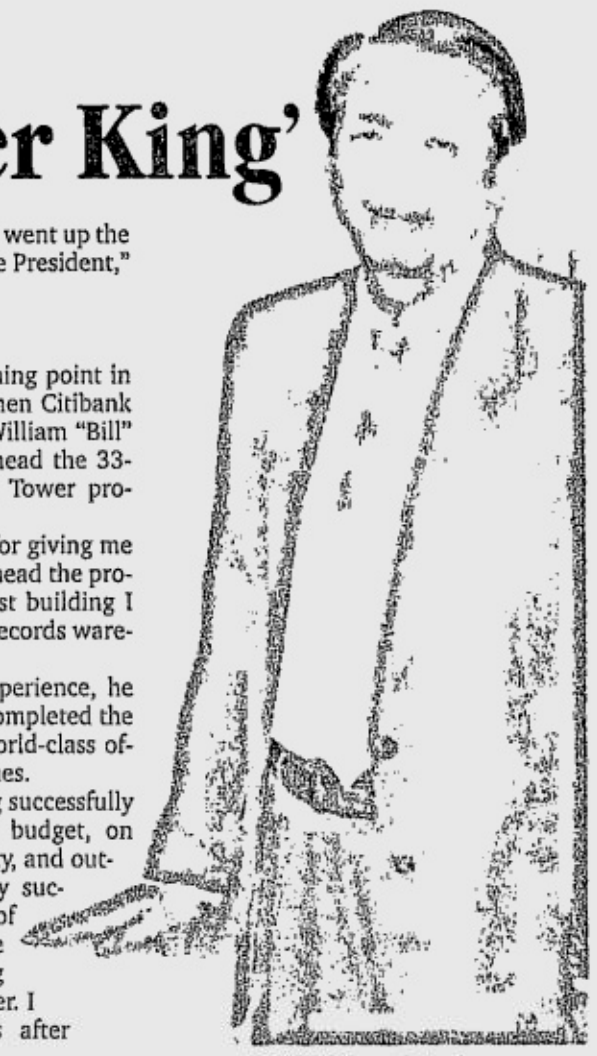
Ignacio says a major turning point in his career came in 1990 when Citibank Country Corporate Head, William "Bill" Ferguson assigned him to head the 33-story, $55-million Citibank Tower project.

"I owe a lot to Ferguson for giving me his trust and confidence to head the project. Before that, the biggest building I have built was a one-story records warehouse," he says.

Despite his relative inexperience, he and his team successfully completed the Citibank Tower, the first world-class office building in the Philippines.

"I completed the building successfully - construction cost below budget, on schedule, world-class quality, and outstanding safety record. My successful completion of Citibank Tower was to me the most major turning point in my corporate career. I received many job offers after that," he says.

VALUES/ B2



DANILO Ignacio today

To do art, artist learns art of selling

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—When joining an art exhibit or putting paintings in an art gallery in the province does not readily translate into sales, a visual artist in Leyte says he has to use his business acumen so he can live to do art work for another day.

Leo Villaflor, Leyte's popular "tuba" painter, stresses that even as a virtual artist pursues excellence in doing art works, he must be also creative in selling his masterpieces.

According to Villaflor, painters and other visual artists must also be like today's entrepreneurs who do not only make quality products but also know how to sell these.

Gone are the days of Vincent Van Gogh or Juan Luna when artists go hungry in the pursuit of their craft, he adds.

Villaflor knows what he's talking about, for he went through hardships as a struggling visual artist with nine growing children to feed and to send to school.

"You have to crawl; it was really a sacrifice," he recalls of his early years as an artist.

Fortunately, his previous work experience in marketing helped him in his work as a visual artist for more than two decades now. And the emotional and financial support of Lourdes, his teacher-wife, made it possible for him to continue his passion.

This 61-year-old visual artist, who is among the successful ones in Leyte, proudly says that their three sons and six daughters are now professionals: a doctor, nurse, seaman, three teachers and three commerce graduates.

In fact, it was his paintings that had mainly paid for their children's education. Villaflor says he was able to convince the priest-president of the now defunct St. Paul's College (which later became Divine Word University) to allow him to exchange his paintings and other art works like terra cotta sculpture and bas relief for his children's school expenses.

Late bloomer

Villaflor has no formal schooling in fine arts. Born in Capoocan, Leyte on Aug. 22, 1942, he took up AB English and then Bachelor of Laws at the St. Paul's College in Tacloban City, but did not take the bar examinations.

After graduating in 1968, then already married for a year, he worked as a sales representative here of a printing machine firm.

He then transferred to a pharmaceutical company who hired him as district supervisor for the Visayas and a part of Mindanao. After about five years, he again changed jobs and became a salesman of an office equipment company.

Although he loved art works and wanted to be a visual artist in his younger days, Villaflor started doing visual art works when he was well into his 30s. The late bloomer Leyteno artist first tried his skill in 1977.

He was then a sales supervisor of a copying machine in Bacolod City and it was his landlord who prodded him to make use of his talent. The landlord was a local artist who used to critique Villaflor's early art works.

In 1979, Villaflor says, "I gave up my marketing career and traded it for my first love which is painting."

That same year he joined the class of Cebu master artist Martino Abellana at the University of the Philippines-Cebu College of Fine Arts. This was only for five Saturdays, but the Leyteno artist says this helped develop his skills. Since then, he concentrated on his new career.

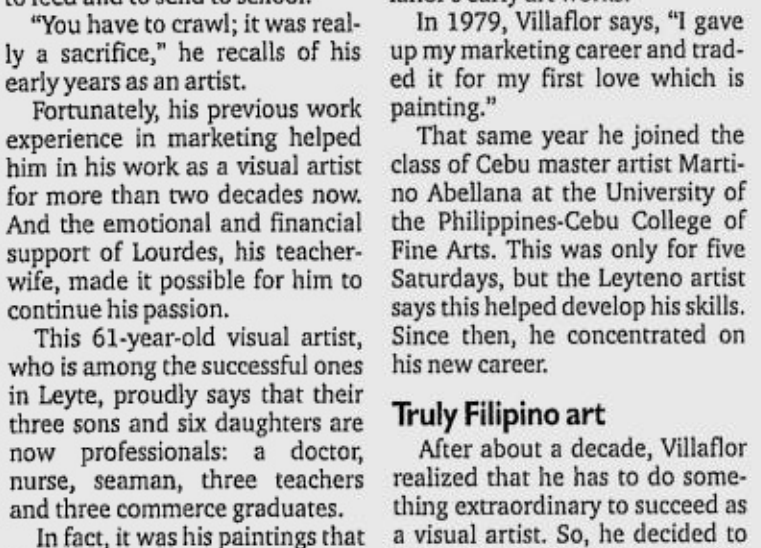
Truly Filipino art

After about a decade, Villaflor realized that he has to do something extraordinary to succeed as a visual artist. So, he decided to have a "truly Filipino identity" in his art works. Since then he started using indigenous materials in most of his works.

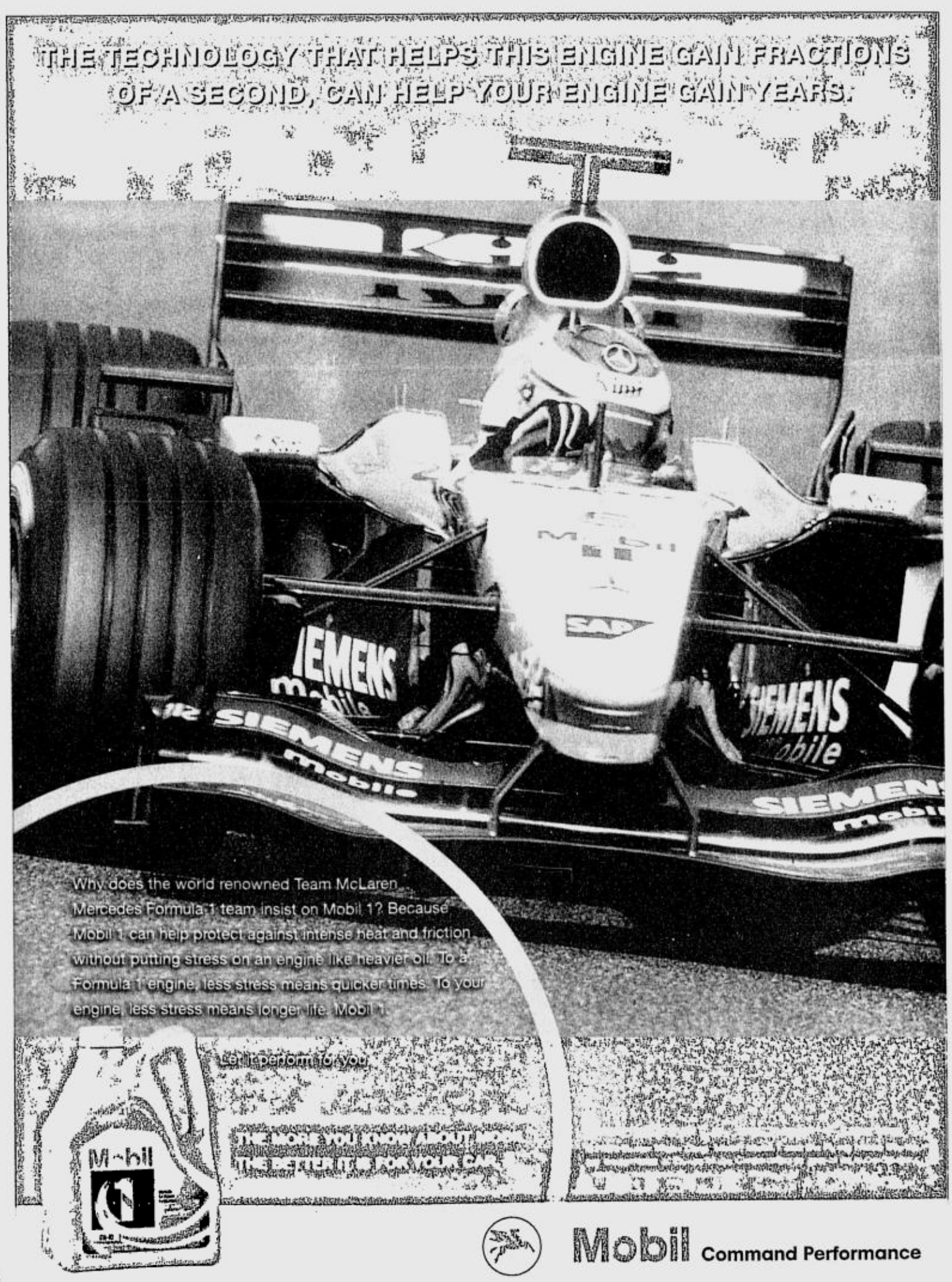
He hit the mark when he experimented on "tuba," the local coconut sap wine. Not only was it something new and unique in the field of visual arts, it also reduced the expenses on painting materials in such medium as oil.

He says tuba painting is very challenging.

TO DO/ B2



VILLAFLOR: Art for art's sake is okay but you have to dispose of your art work because the name of the game today is survival. PHOTO BY VICENTE LABRO



Japanese urges farmers to try mushrooms

By Ben Moses Ebreo
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—A Japanese expert has encouraged farmers and tribe members here to engage in the production of high value mushroom in upland areas to increase their income and to lessen the country's dependence on imported produce.

Renichi Ito, a technical expert from the Organization of Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement (Oisca), a Japanese organization based in Nueva Vizcaya, has introduced recently the mushroom species called Shiitake to local farmers.

Speaking before government officials and employees here, Ito said the Shiitake mushroom is being imported in the country at P450 to P600 a kilogram. The mushroom is believed to have originated from China and Japan.

He said that with the demand for the mushrooms and its status as a high value commodity, farmers could earn and augment their income through mushroom growing.

"This mushroom has been continuously studied for so many years in China and Japan. It is rich in vitamins and lately, it was discovered that it can be an effective cure for cancer," he said.

The Shiitake mushroom, Ito added, is considered an elixir since it is rich in minerals and vitamins.

The demand for the mushrooms and its status as a high value commodity, farmers could earn and augment their income through mushroom growing.

The Shiitake fungus produce seeds to perpetuate itself while the fungi produce spores at their ring heads for the same function. Different sexes of spores emerge and are blown by the wind.

Ito said that with the right moisture and temperature, these spores would develop into first generation fungi. The products of the first generation fungi become mushrooms that grow naturally and can be cultured in decaying tree trunks and branches.

He said the Shiitake mushroom could be cultivated in some parts of the Cordillera and Nueva Vizcaya where it requires a growing temperature range of 5 to 32 degrees Celsius with the most conducive temperature of between 22 and 26 degrees Celsius.

"It thrives well at low temperatures and becomes weaker as temperature rises. At 35 to 40 degrees Celsius, it dies in a few hours," Ito said.

He said care and proper handling are important for its cultivation since the Shiitake mushroom is very sensitive to inorganic fertilizers and agricultural chemicals.

According to Ito, Shiitake fungus draws its food from nutrients from the decaying wood. It cannot grow on healthy, living trees.

In Japan, the wood used in the culture of mushrooms are Japanese cedar, narra and oak trees but recently, cultivators in Uruguay used eucalyptus trees with "very promising results."

The qualities of wood to be used should be given importance like bark thickness, diameter and hardness of the pith. Trees between six and eight years old and which have a diameter of between 5 and 12 centimeters are highly recommended as medium for culture.

He said in the Philippines, the gmelina species is being tested as a culture medium.

"While Japan is a temperate country with four seasons, the Philippines is a tropical country with two seasons and we have to use tropical tree species as wood media. Since the country has higher temperature, there is a possibility that growth development maybe faster or slower than in Japan and we are still in the process of observation," Ito said.

To do art, artist learns art of selling

From page B1

"When the hues are not good, your work is dead," he adds.

In 1990, a visiting artistic director of a theater in London who was awed by his unique medium bought one of his tuba paintings. Villaflor later learned that his painting had been displayed in a London museum.

His first big break, however, was in 1994 when a Dutch tourist persuaded him to have his works exhibited in Amsterdam. All of his 25 paintings on display were sold.

But to Villaflor, the recognition of his unique painting came in September 1998 when he was invited to the "100 Years 100 Artists: An expression of the Filipino Soul" at the Cultural center of the Philippines, which was one of the highlights of the Centennial celebrations. He presented a tuba painting of a Spanish-era house in Leyte.

Despite the success of his tuba paintings, Villaflor did not stop experimenting with indigenous materials as medium in painting. He had tried soot and squid ink for black, dried tobacco leaves mixed with a small amount of water for light brown, and indigenous natural dyes for certain colors. Very recently, he used feathers as a medium.

He also uses native materials like bamboo and bamboo sheets (the thin membrane that comes out of the lower nodes of the tangnan bamboo variety) as frames or substitutes for canvas. In fact, he does pen and ink, oil or tuba painting on bamboo sheets.

Business technique

To Villaflor the salesman, it is not enough that one can cut the cost of production. He also has to do some prospecting and provide the needs of prospective clients.

Though he sometimes does art works to satisfy his creative mind, Villaflor admits that many of the art works he sold were "carefully planned." He explains that he usually identifies his prospective buyers and then does the kind of art works he thinks they would want.

For instance, weeks prior to the golden anniversary of Tacloban City last June 12, Villaflor personally met with City Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez. He brought along some "sample paintings" of scenes of Tacloban about a century ago, which the artist reproduced earlier from old photographs. These "samples" were intentionally painted on small canvases, so that the mayor can see the "goods" before "buying" them.

According to Villaflor, his business technique paid off because Mayor Romualdez ordered several oil paintings, this time on big canvases that the chief executive later displayed in his office at City Hall.

Earlier, he sold a couple of paintings to a high official of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. What he did, Villaflor recalls, was paint some scenes from the official's hometown in Southern Leyte, including the municipal hall that had a striking similarity to the old house where General Emilio Aguinaldo waved the Philippine flag on June 12, 1898.

The oil paintings were immediately bought when he presented these to the official.

Then there was that prominent businesswoman from Northern Samar. Learning that the woman also loved art works, Villaflor went to her hometown to paint something that was "close to her heart." "She did not hesitate even for a second when I presented the painting of her hometown's old church," he recalls.

A Japanese tourist also became one of Villaflor's customers.

"We were on the same boat and we started talking about the Philippines and he told me that he like the view of the countryside," the artist recalls. In a few minutes, he presented a painting to the Japanese who immediately bought the painting.

"Every time I travel, I always bring with me some of my paintings which I roll on a cylinder container," Villaflor reveals. "Who knows when an opportunity to sell my work will come?"

Villaflor is today one of the successful artists in Leyte, but he is still very much a salesman.

"The artist of today must not only have the heart and soul of an artist, he must also have business acumen," the Leyteno artist avers. "Art for art's sake is okay but you have to dispose of your art work because the name of the game today is survival," he says matter-of-factly.

Values learned at 17 created this 'Tower King'

From page B1

He accepted the offer made by the Philam group to become president of Philam Properties Corp. and he brought with him values he learned in Citibank—integrity, passion for excellence, hard work, professionalism, fairness and value for money.

His Philam stint is marked by the construction of the $150-million Philamlife Tower, another world-class quality office building and the Tower Club, the premier private club in the Philippines.

"Both projects were considered very successful—on budget, on schedule, top quality development," he says.

It was while serving as a director in one of the Philam group of companies when Ignacio met James Go and Frederick Go of the Robinsons group. They later invited him to become general manager of the high rise buildings division of the Robinsons Land Corp.

One of his current major projects is the development of One Gateway Place, a 28-story residential condominium along Pioneer Street near the corner of Edsa in Mandaluyong City and Two Adriatico Place, a 38-story residential condominium at the corner of Adriatico and Pedro Gil Streets in Ermita, Manila.

Ignacio's achievements have long exceeded his simple ambition in college to graduate, preferably with honors; and then receive a hefty salary those days of P1,000 a month to finance the studies of his younger brothers in college.

He says that he would not have been able to be where he is today if not for the values that he learned since becoming financially independent at 17.

For those who want to be like him one day, he says that they should learn and practice the same values such as integrity, passion for excellence, professionalism and fairness.

"Leaders who practice these values have a greater chance of moving up the corporate ladder," he says.

Ignacio also says that people should not stop studying, either take up further studies or simply read up on subjects related to the work.

Continuous study

"Education should be a continuing thing. There is so much to learn in this fast-moving world and if you stop studying, you will be left behind. I have previously been very strong in project management, facility management and leasing. However, when I moved to Robinsons, my biggest responsibility was sales, an area where I had limited experience. I had to study quickly how to manage a very large sale force. My crash course on sales meant reading a lot of books and talking to experts on sales," he says.

Ignacio may be mistaken for an old hand in sales as company sales from the high rise division grew by as much as 50 percent during his first year, and 200 percent by the end of his second year.

"I still have to manage construction projects but much of my time now is focused on increasing sales," he says.

From there Ignacio wants to later specialize in making real estate deals, making him a well-rounded real estate executive.

"I have always been fascinated with the way investment bankers make financial deals. When I retire, I want to establish my own company, probably doing some consultancy on real estate development and construction," he says.

IGNACIO with wife and children

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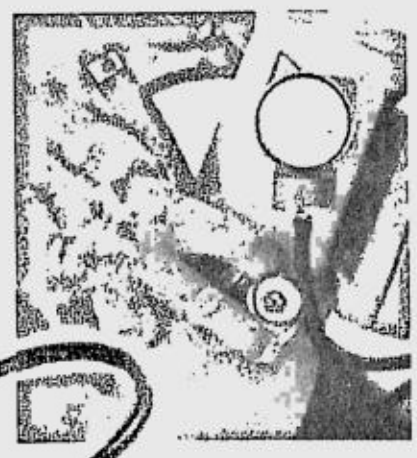

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Lady gives up pizza chain . . .

From page B12

tent to be left with just part of the business.

And so the search began for the right partner who would take care of the Greenwich business, as if it was still Tueres running it.

That search led to Tueres' meeting with Tony Tancaktiong, founder and chief executive officer of Jollibee Foods Corp.

It was perhaps fated for Tueres and Tancaktiong to be partners as a former Jollibee vice president was a very good friend of Tueres and did some consulting work for her.

It was she who helped arranged the meeting between the two hardworking Filipino entrepreneurs.

Yam B. Gruet, Greenwich Director for Operations, says that Tueres also sought out Tancaktiong because she felt that like her, Tancaktiong also grew the Jollibee business on his own and that the company was Filipino.

At that time, Tueres was being seriously courted by foreign companies to sell to them, but Tueres steadfastly refused saying the company should stay with a Filipino, and even beat the foreign competition.

"They shared the same belief in meeting the highest standards for the quality of food and the desire to be world class," Gruet says.

It did not take long before Tueres and Tancaktiong had a meeting of minds, and Jollibee eventually acquired 80 percent of the company, with 20 percent left in the hands of Tueres' children. As Tueres said in her sharing, the agreement was an answer to a prayer.

"The Lord can never be outdone in generosity. (In July 1994) my prayers were finally answered. A partnership with Jollibee was effected. How and why, I know it was He who was in control," Tueres says.

The Tueres children used to operate 15 stores, but were eventually left with 12. Management of the company was also left with the Jollibee group.

"Greenwich gives us a sense of heritage that makes it different from the other pizza brands and we are also aware that the brand is even older than Jollibee and has a strong personality," Greenwich marketing director Ma. Rosario C. Caluya says.

She adds that the Tueres children continue to be actively involved in the running of Greenwich. They meet with their Jollibee counterparts at least once a month to see how the company is doing and where it is headed.

Greenwich went through many changes when the Jollibee group took over the company.

Branch operations were streamlined, the look of the stores was changed to match the target market, which were the young adults and there were some additions to the menu.

But one thing that remained the same was the pizza sauce that attracted people to Greenwich since 1971 and the adherence to quality.

"The taste profile is still the same, which is sweety, very Pinoy. We standardized it because we have to have the same taste for all stores," Gruet says.

From the 50 that Jollibee took over, the network has grown to 200 with the opening last August of the branch in Orosa, Kalaw in Manila near the Luneta.

This makes Greenwich the country's largest pizza chain, which is quite a jump from the far third place that it had at the time of the takeover in 1994.

The pizza market at that time was dominated by multinational brands Pizza Hut and Shakey's.

Gruet discloses that sales last year grew by 13.4 percent over the previous year, and there's a very good chance that the growth would be sustained this year despite the economic downturn, and more importantly Tueres' legacy will live on.

Yielding towards educational reforms

By Jonalyn Betis

Choosing the Right School Helps Shape a Better Future

EDUCATION is a highly prized commodity and vital to the country's development. In its very essence, it is an effective tool in providing the people with proper skills in improving and advancing their lives in the future.

Just as people value education, the government's new educational platforms are aimed at enhancing self-image of every Filipino and making each learner more competitive and skillful in emerging knowledge society. Its main task is to provide the students with quality education.

Along with the efforts of the government, most parents still give importance on several aspects in attaining quality education for their children, one of which is choosing the best school. Choosing the right school is the very first step to starting a new career for students.

The following are important things to bear in mind when researching prospective schools:

•Check the nature of the curriculum and areas of study. Make sure that the school program exactly fits your child's interest.

•Consider the school facilities. These include security and conducive environment for learning.

•Think about the school and class size. The size or number of students affects learning potential.

•Go over the school's admission criteria. It must be attainable and suitable for students.

•Study the Courses offerings. The offerings must be relevant and practical.

•Verify students' opportunity in landing a job. The school must have an intensive career placement program.

•Check the cost/financial aid-affordability. A good school provides scholarships and financial assistance for students.

•Other aspects: location, Graduation and retention rates.

After considering the aforementioned aspects, request information from the different schools you are interested in. By doing so, you can then compare the different aspects of the schools and get a better idea of what they are offering. It is always a good idea to visit the schools you are considering. Being there will give you a good feel of the school and its facilities. This may also be your key in deciding which school will provide you with the best training for your chosen career.

If you are still having a hard time deciding, ask about the little priorities you have in mind. For example, Do you want a career in Business Management but also want to incorporate computer? Then you'll want to go to a school that offers both programs. Will you be working and going to school? If so, which schools best accommodate your schedules? Do you want to be near your family? Or, are you ready for new adventure away from home? Be sure that some of these considerations if not all are enough guarantees that your task of choosing the right school is well underway.

Remember that the key to getting this kind of education is knowing first what you want to study and finding the right school where the curriculum is well developed. It is neither the name nor the reputation of the school that counts.

2003 Maritime Debate Held at TIP

THE ARLEGUI Campus at Technological Institute of the Philippines Manila located at 1338 Arlegui Street, Quiapo, served as the venue for the 2003 Maritime Debate on the Question " Makakatulong ba ang Absentee Voting Law sa Paglulukluk ng Kinatawan ng Maritime Sector sa Kongreso? "

The debate was hosted by the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) was held on September 23, 2003 as one of the activities in the celebration of the National Maritime Week from September 22-28, 2003.

Also present during the occasion where Atty. Oscar Sevilla and Capt. Jovito Tamayo, Administrator and Chief of Staff of MARINA respectively and former Congressman and Chief of Staff of TESDA Dante Liban. Other guests were Ellen Asuncion of Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC). President of the Council of Marine Manning Agencies Capt. Rodolfo Estampador, President of Seamen's Wives Association of the Philippines Linda Subang, Ex - Board Examiner for Marine Deck Officers Capt. Michael Cuanson, Francisco Aguillar Jr, of Filipino Migrant Workers, Capt. Paderanga of AIMS, Dr. Teresita Bulingit, of PMMA, Nollie Sandoval, President of the Philippine Ship Builders, Capt. Renie Modelo, VP for Operations of Crystal Shipping, Mr. Jojo Palma of Bibby International Shipping, Engr. Butch Robles, Atty. Teresita Loran NLRC, Chiefmate Rene Sangalang of Buhay Marino, Radio Officer Jo Banzuelo, Amie Santiago of MARINA and Leo Santiago Debate organizer and emcee.

The guests were welcomed to TIP by TIP Maritime Studies Superintendent Oscar S. Bayombong, TIP Dean Elizabeth R. Pader, and TIP Manila V. P for Administration Angelita S. Soliven.

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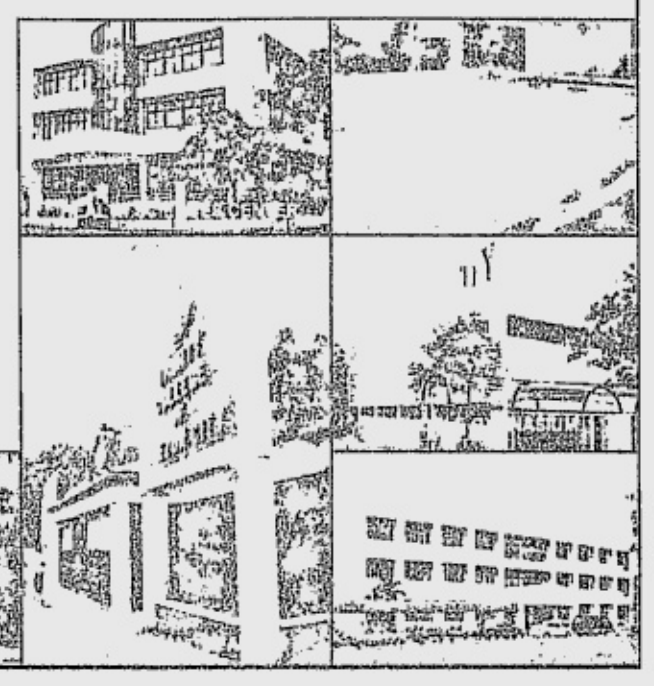

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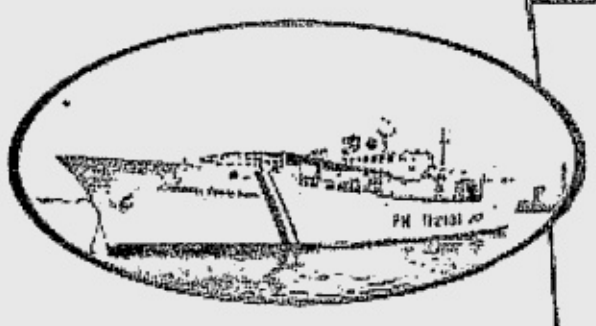

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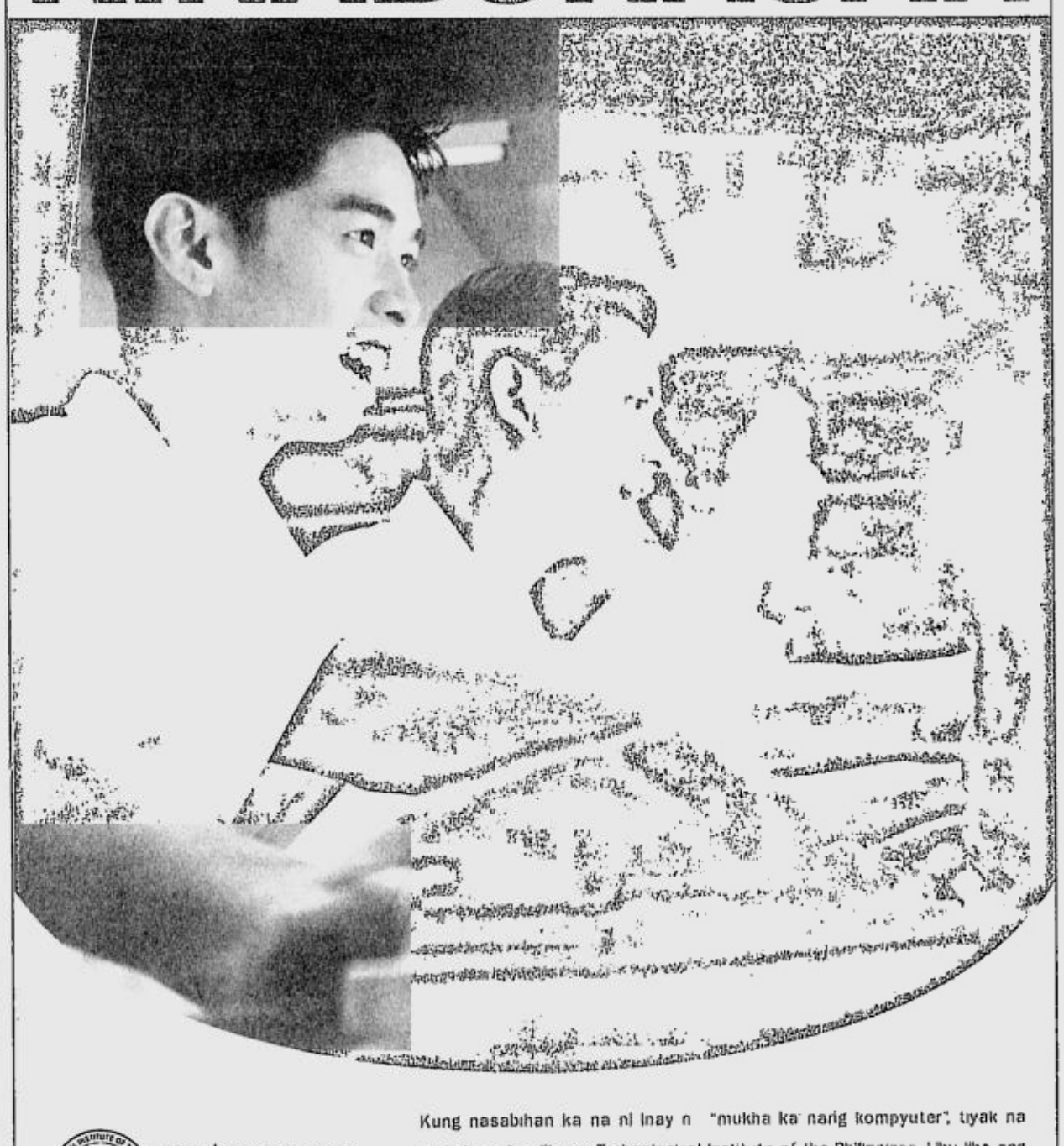

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When finished, the golfers will be hitting from fairways bordered by the hill's grassy slopes, wooded rills and cinder cliffs after earlier tackling the front nine which offers an unhampered view of the forested slopes of Mt. Makil ...g.

Bobby Jones said Ayala Greenfield Estates is unique because it was designed to challenge the minds of the golfers and at the same time allow them to share the excitement of the game with their families.

"Ayala Greenfield Estates ... family golf course. It is ...ot only for golfers, but also for kids because they have a place to play there too," Jones emphasized.

Th... will be no golf widows or orphans at the Ayala Greenfield Estates since the AGE Leisure Club boasts of a ...t of first-class facilities including an infinity swimming pool, a game room, a spa and wellness center, multi-sports gym, a kiddie playground and Locsin-designed clubhouse overlooking Laguna de Bay.

Bobby Jones had nothing but praise for AGE. "It is a beautiful place. I call it a castle on a hill, like a new Camelot. I hope everyone can come and ...ee the beauty of the place and ...es, enjoy a game of golf."

To cap the evening, Bobby Jones gifted new lot owners with an autographed copy of his book "Golf by Design."

Construction of the Ayala Greenfield Estates course is currently in full swing. The first 9 holes is expected to be completed by mid-2004, while the entire course would be finished by the end of next year and will be playable by first quarter of 2005.

For more details on Ayala Greenfield Estates, please call 848-5000.

CEO sets fresh course for bank

UCPB's new president and CEO Jose L. Querubin is charting a fresh course for UCPB, and he is moving swiftly to get the bank started on this new direction.

Armed with a P20-billion investment from the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC) and the support of government, the former Bank of America country manager for the Philippines and regional sales director for Asia had taken important steps to strengthen the institution's infrastructure to ready it for a strong foray into the middle and consumer markets, where he said margins are higher, and the risks lower and more manageable, and the government sector, which has vast untapped potentials.

In the short time since he joined UCPB, the Wharton Business School-educated Querubin has crafted a new corporate vision to define the bank's strategic direction for the next five years, revamped the organizational structure to sharpen its market focus and efficiencies, and put in new senior executives to key positions to inject fresh management ideas into the organization.

New vision

"Where I want to lead UCPB in the next five years is to make it the best bank for our clients by providing them the best service in the most inexpensive way possible," Querubin, 48, told employees recently. "We will not aim to be number one in assets or in profit; rather we will focus on serving our clients well, and thus earn the mandate to serve their business. And to do this, we will strive to know their needs intimately."

Querubin, whose training at Citibank was to lead by example, has since walked his talk. Barely three months in the job, he has already visited a quarter of the bank's 178 branches in Metro Manila and the provinces, and met with over 500 top clients to find out first hand what their needs are. He intends to call on more clients as he tours the remaining branches before the year ends.

In between the branch visits and client calls, he hosts a regular "Breakfast with the CEO" for bank associates to listen to their workplace concerns, solicit their ideas, and brief them on management's thrusts so that everybody knows his role and can contribute to the overall effort.

New structure

Having laid down the direction he wants the bank to take, Querubin next retooled the organizational structure. The resulting set up, which is being implemented this month, realigned the 17 bank divisions into seven business segments, eliminating existing functional overlaps while at the same time enhancing organizational synergy and focus.

According to Querubin, what the reorganization basically did was to separate the good bank from the bad bank. The good bank will focus on growing the business while the bad bank will concentrate on recovering value from the remaining non-performing assets of the bank, either by liquefying them or turning them into money-earning business ventures.

"In this way, UCPB can attend simultaneously to the urgent tasks of generating revenues and managing the non-performing assets without one getting into the way of the other. Both tasks can thus be addressed with equal emphasis," Querubin said.

The good bank comprises of all the line units of the bank, which has been grouped into four business segments along the line of their target markets, namely, Corporate and Investment Banking Group, Consumer Banking Group, Treasury Group and Branch Banking Group. Reporting to the Chief Operating Officer, these units will devote their full time to just acquiring clients, nurturing the relationship, and making profits. To enable them to focus on these core functions, their administrative and operation functions were spun off to the other business segments. The processing of transactions, for instance, was centralized with a separate Operations Group. On the other hand, all other support service providers were grouped into a Support Services Group under a Chief Finance Officer.

Meanwhile the bad bank will now be handled by a separate Credit and Supervision Group under a Chief Credit Officer, who has also been mandated to streamline, standardize and enhance controls in the credit processes of the bank and its subsidiaries.

New hires

An alumnus of De La Salle University where he obtained undergraduate degrees in Mathematics and Mechanical Engineering, Querubin has always set great store in putting the right people, with the right qualifications, in the right job. So to

QUERUBIN

man key positions in the new organizational set up, he tapped in-house talents and hired from outside as well. The new hires are Antonio M. Cailao, Cesar A. Rubio and Higinio O. Macadaeg Jr.

Cailao is the new chief operating officer. A 30-year banking veteran, he spent most of his career trouble-shooting and building startups for Citibank in Manila, Hong Kong, South Korea, Venezuela, Vietnam and Singapore. Prior to joining UCPB, he was managing director and Asia head for the e-Bank and Commercial Banking Group of Fleet National Bank, the principal banking subsidiary of FleetBoston Financial Corp., which is the seventh biggest financial holding company in the US.

On the other hand, Macadaeg, who has been doing lending and remedial account management for practically the entire 21 years that he has been in banking, is the chief credit officer and heads the credit and supervision group. Up until 2002, he was executive vice president and senior credit officer in charge of Remedial Management, Asset Disposition, Credit Policy and Support, and Legal Services divisions at Equitable PCI Bank. He had also held senior executive positions at Solidbank, Metrobank and Standard and Chartered Bank.

Rubio is the Chief Finance Officer and heads the Support Services Group. A Certified Public Accountant, he has been in banking for 32 years, most of which he spent in RCBC. He joined RCBC in 1976 as an assistant vice president and rose to become executive vice president. During his 25 years in RCBC, he headed the bank's Account Management Group, Senior Credit Review Group, Staff Group, Staff and Operations Group, and Corporate Planning Group. Rubio played key roles in RCBC's rise to become the fifth largest bank in the country.

New markets

With his senior management team in place, Querubin is now finalizing his five-year turnaround plan for UCPB. The basic strategy is to play off UCPB's inherent strengths to expand into markets where margins are high and the risks are low. "We will not build up our asset base. On the contrary, we will be very prudent in lending money. To increase profitability, we will improve margins where we can and at the same time enhance productivity," he said.

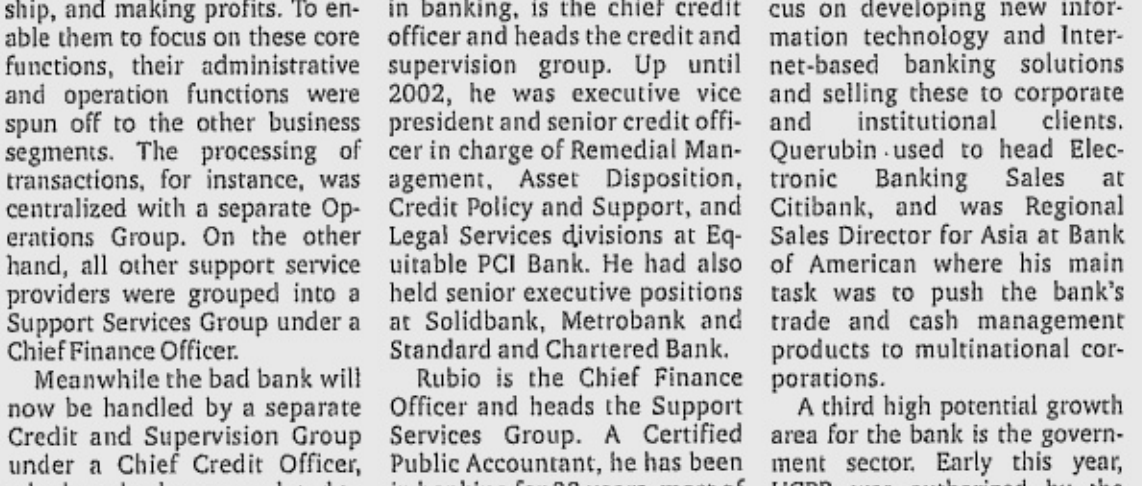
One area being eyed is consumer banking. According to Querubin, UCPB has a strong distribution system and a strong franchise. Including the branches of its savings bank and rural bank subsidiaries, UCPB has a total of 212 outlets serving more than a million customers in key cities and towns across the country. "We will leverage on this extensive network to expand our consumer business, using the branches as platform to reach more clients and push more consumer banking products and services," Querubin said.

Another lucrative area for expansion is the trade and cash management business. UCPB already provides a wide range of trade and cash management services to corporates. Querubin said he plans to further broaden the bank's offering by creating a new Transactional Banking Group, which will focus on developing new information technology and Internet-based banking solutions and selling these to corporate and institutional clients. Querubin used to head Electronic Banking Sales at Citibank, and was Regional Sales Director for Asia at Bank of American where his main task was to push the bank's trade and cash management products to multinational corporations.

A third high potential growth area for the bank is the government sector. Early this year, UCPB was authorized by the Monetary Board to accept national government deposits. Querubin said the bank will also eye the servicing of government disbursements as well as the deposit requirements of Local Government Units. In addition, he said the bank will look into financing projects for the agriculture sector. Only this month, for example, UCPB inked a deal to set up a P500-million credit line for the Quedan and Rural Credit Guaranty Corp.

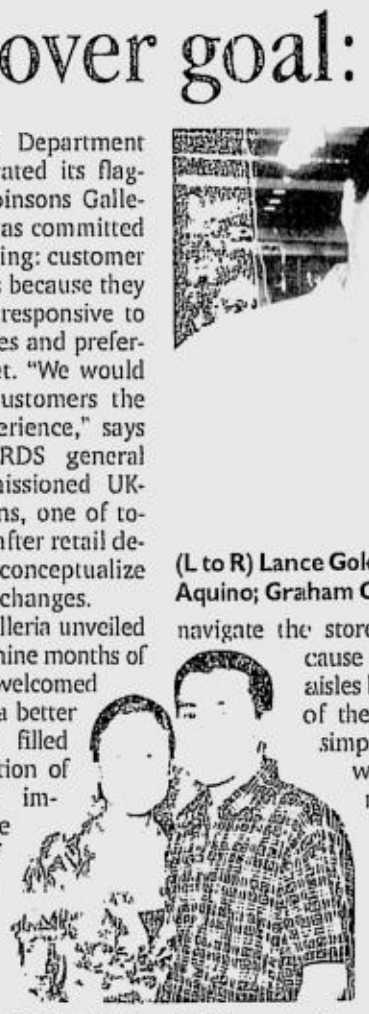
Makeover goal: Customer convenience

WHEN Robinsons Department Store (RDS) renovated its flagship branch at Robinsons Galleria, management was committed to one important thing: customer convenience. It was because they wanted to remain responsive to the constant changes and preferences of the market. "We would like to give our customers the best shopping experience," says Graham Coates, RDS general manager. It commissioned UK-based Zebra Designs, one of today's most-sought-after retail design studios, to conceptualize and implement the changes.



(L to R) Lance Gokongwei, president, JG Summit; Ronnie Ong, FVP/GM) Robinsons Supermarket; Angel Aquino; Graham Coates, Robinsons Dept. Store GM

So when RDS Galleria unveiled its new "face" after nine months of renovation, what welcomed the customers was a better and brighter look filled with a wider selection of merchandise. The improvements done were in the areas of lighting, merchandise mix, high graphic signages, lay-out and departmental blocking. It is easier to navigate the store, not only because there are wider aisles but also because of the innovative yet simple scheme whereby departments are identifiable through colors.



ROXANNE and Erickson Farillas

At the formal relaunching party held recently, RDS senior vice president Robina Gokongwei-Pe and Coates welcomed the numerous guests in attendance including RDS suppliers and concessionaires.

SURESH Mirpuri (president: Barbizon), Ravi Santani (Puritan), Rex Daryanani (GM: Funtastic)

MEL Vergel De Dios III (Loreal Phils.), May Abanquez (Loreal Phils.), Ronnie Ong (GM: RSC), Malou Torres (AVP Operations: RSC)

JAMES Go, chair, JG Summit and Mia Cuenca of Lux Asia

Hope Tang (AVP Merchandising: RDS), Elizabeth Gokongwei, Faith Lim (AVP Merchandising: RSC)

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Editor Aries Espinosa

APC introduces next generation Smart-UPS units

AMERICAN Power Conversion (APC) announces the next generation of their award winning Smart-UPS line of uninterruptible power supplies (UPS) with new 2200VA and 3000VA rack-mount models targeted for critical business servers and internetworking applications. This new fourth generation design occupies only 2U of valuable rack space, while providing up to 2700 watts of power making them an ideal solution for rack optimized servers, server blades, and storage devices. The new models incorporate an advanced feature set that provides enhanced power conditioning and management capabilities for the protection of critical business applications, data and equipment for utility power disturbances.

"Our Smart-UPS family of products has long been an industry benchmark for reliable, manageable power protection for networking applications," said Jason Lim, Philippines country manager. "This next generation rack-optimized design builds on these core attributes while addressing the need for increased power density as more IT equipment is packed into the rack. These new models come with enhanced manageability and improved performance in adverse thermal environments."

Highlighted features of the next generation of Smart-UPS units include higher power output by over 20 percent of more wattage than existing units; extended range AVR; improved battery management; self-contained,. hot-swappable battery module; full PowerChute business edition functionality with serial or USB; and new sleek design with improved ventilation.

In addition to these features, the new Smart-UPS rack-mounts offer unparalleled manageability with proactive alarms, a built-in emergency power off (EPO) circuit, newly enhanced VA/Watt load meter and a comprehensive array of power management accessories supported through the unit's SmartSlot. Key accessories include APC's Network Management Card products, which provide standards-based monitoring, configuration, control, and event handling for APC UPSs, and PowerChute remote shutdown for systems over a 10/100BaseT network. The new modules are integrated onto a single UPS SmartSlot card and have features like a built in modem for dial in, out of band management and environmental management capabilities for infrastructure management.

APC's Smart-UPS models offer a comprehensive two-year warranty. These new models have undergone extensive testing by the WHQL (Windows Hardware Quality Lab) and carry the new "Designed for Microsoft Server 2003" logo.

Better alternative to drive-in hotels

WHETHER you are a transient looking for a decent place to stay here in the city or just in a plain romantic mood, Stone House Apartelle provides exactly what you only need. For a reasonable starting rate of P600, Stone House Apartelle approximates the homey atmosphere you may have in your own house plus a lot more. Its high-standard facilities include fully air-conditioned rooms equipped with cable TV, hot and cold strong water supply, 24-hour restaurant, affordable laundry services and personalized service from its team. To get you in the romantic mood, you can also enjoy with your special someone regular night lounge acts at Star Tavern, at the ground floor restaurant of Stone House Apartelle. Located at 1315 E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City, Stone House Apartelle's address is near Manila and business districts of Quezon City and Ortigas Center.

KANKUNIS ON SKINNED

Her svelte figure and grace on the catwalk made Cathy Aban deserving of the Miss Kankunis Body title during the Katawan Pinoy Foundation's recently concluded event dubbed 'Skinned'. Held at NBC Tent last July 24, the affair featured live body painting, a photo exhibit and an innovative fashion show which brought forward creations from indigenous materials and fabrics. Miss Kankunis Body brought home a cash prize and gift pack from Kankunis Herbal Slimming Tea. Also shown in photo (left) is Ken Villanueva (sales manager) who represented Diamond Laboratories, sole distributor of Kankunis Herbal Slimming Tea.

Clips

San Miguel de Manila unveiling

MSGR. Augusto G. Laban, parish priest of San Miguel, Manila, requests the presence of old parishioners who have settled elsewhere to join the gathering today, Sept. 28, the feast day of St. Michael, and witness the unveiling of the historical Marker in front of the Church at 8:30 a.m., followed by a High Mass at 9. "Our parish, which is the home parish of Malacañang, has a proud history to tell and it would be the climax of our celebration to see parishioners, old and new, venerate this important occasion," Msgr. Laban said. San Miguel de Manila had historically been the residence of rich Spanish and creole families. The church has added historic value for serving as the archdiocesan office of Manila while the Arzobispado was being rebuilt after the war until it was transferred in Intramuros in 1987.

Buying, financing homes

IN BUYING and financing their dream homes, first-time buyers need guidance to avoid fraud and mistakes along the way. To provide the essential knowledge and to avoid personal sad experiences, Urban Institute of Real Estate conducts a seminar on "Buying and Financing Your First Home" on Sept. 30, 1:30 to 6 p.m. at Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Park Square Drive, Ayala Center, Makati City. The seminar covers common mistakes in buying homes, determining how much you can afford, the right type of home for you, criteria on where to live, the right neighborhood, property taxes, looking for bargain alternatives, professional real estate services, negotiating price and terms, securing a mortgage, and downpayments. For more details, call 681-0928.

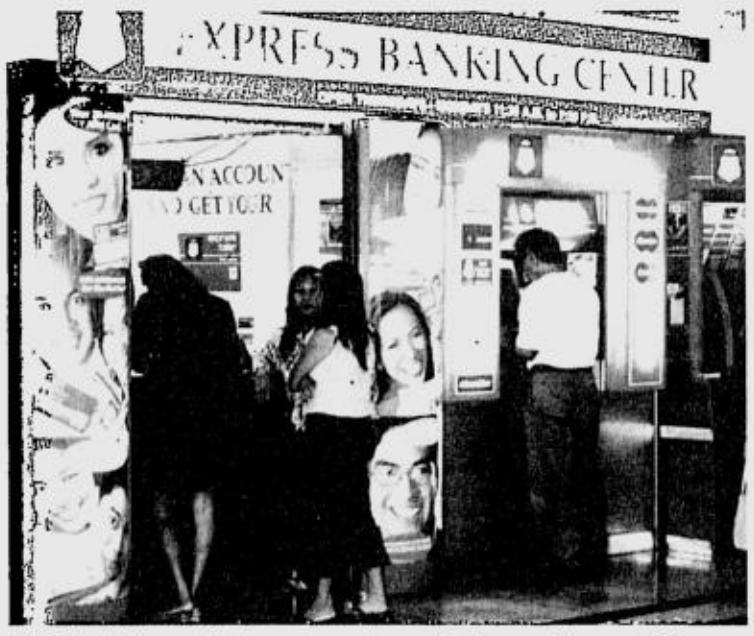
Citibank offer extended

BE SEEN sporting the hottest in Adidas fashion when you apply for a Citibank credit card. This exciting promo has been extended until Sept. 30, which gives approved credit card applicants P500 Adidas gift certificates they can use to purchase the latest Adidas items. Also take advantage of Citibank's lowest balance transfer add-on rate ever at 1 percent monthly for 24 months, plus free first year annual fees worth as much as P2,500. Save P90 a month for 12 months for a Citibank Clear Card, P1,200 for Citibank Silver cards and P2,500 for Citibank Gold cards. Choose from Citibank Silver and Gold MasterCard or Visa, Citibank Clear Card, Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa or the Shell-Citibank MasterCard. Citibank credit cards are accepted in more than 29 million establishments in over 300 countries. For more details, call the 24-hour Citiphone at 995-9999, or log on to www.citibank.com.ph.

THE 'RAINBOW' look. BPI Express Banking Center wears the 'rainbow look, which showcases the various products and services one can get from BPI Express Banking Centers.

WE'RE in business! All smiles during the ribbon-cutting ceremonies of BPI Express Banking Center-Glorietta. From left, VP Jojo Ocampo, EBC regional head, SVP Nita Claravall, marketing director, SEVP Aurelio Montinola III, and SVP Tessie Tan, head of card banking.

Fully loaded BPI products and services highlight BPI Express Banking Centers' new look



LOTS to do! Open a Platinum Account, enroll in Express Phone or BPI Checkfree Payments—there's so much that you can do right here.

TIME check. It's 7 in the evening but one can still apply for a BPI Credit Card, Express Cash or a loan at the EBC.

BPI YET again pioneers a different kind of banking experience in the Philippines.

You see, BPI recently relaunched the BPI Express Banking Center (EBC) all over the malls and around the country with a new look you'll love.

Of course, the first thing you'll like about EBCs are their locations. As mentioned, they're in malls and other high traffic areas. Imagine the convenience of going to the bank in leisure and pleasure.

Plus, EBCs are open during mall hours (that's till way past your office hours) and even on weekends.

And yes, there's the joy of getting BPI's fully loaded products.

Take the BPI Express Teller, for example. When you open a BPI Express Teller Savings account, you can get your ATM card in just 20 minutes! It doesn't get any faster than this.

Even getting the BPI Platinum account is a treat. You get to enjoy not only high interest rates-you also get free accident insurance benefits. Not only that, your BPI Platinum account comes with a free BPI Express Teller card.

Another great reason to visit the BPI Express Banking Center is the BPI Express Cash card. You can use your BPI Express Cash card in over 20,000 MasterCard Electronic establishments nationwide. You can use it for dining, shopping and a lot more.

For truly convenient banking anytime, anywhere, how about enrolling in BPI Express Phone and BPI Express Online at the EBC.

With Express Phone and Express Online, you can do your banking transactions like balance inquiries and funds transfer from the comfort of your home or office using your phone or PC.

You can also bring your bills to the EBC and enroll in BPI Checkfree Payments. You'll never have to line up again to pay your bills. You can just use BPI Express Phone (89-100), Express Online (www.bpiexpressonline.com) or the Express Teller ATM.

Another EBC perk is that you can apply for a BPI Credit Card right here. The really cool thing is that if you're already a BPI depositor, your credit card's annual fee for the first year is waived. How's that for perks?

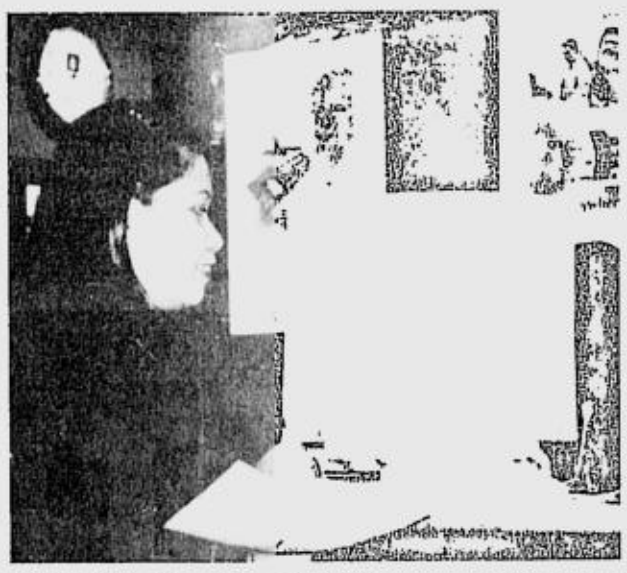
Now dig this-when you apply for a BPI Auto Loan at the EBC, you can get a credit approval in just one day!

If you're getting a BPI Auto Loan, you might consider applying for a BPI Housing Loan as well. After all, the EBC offers really low interest rates so getting your dream home is now easy on the pocket. Needless to say, your dream is now affordable and achievable.

Now add to that your friendly Express Banker to show and explain BPI's various products and services, then everything becomes a cinch.

Drop by your favorite mall today. Chances are, you'll come across a BPI Express Banking Center. Go check it out, take the opportunity to avail yourself of BPI's fully loaded products and experience a different kind of banking today.

JUST got it! In just 20 minutes, one can get a BPI Express Teller ATM card!



INTERNET banking at the mall. Get a fre .... on how to use BPI Express Online (www.bpiexpressonli... ....) at the EBC itself.

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RESIDENTIAL/AGRICULTURAL

CEBU CITY	MIN BID
1 Lot-Lots 20 & 6-B Paseo Annette, Ma. Luisa Estate Park Subd., Banilad /TLA 1,158	4,690,000
2 Lot/ Lot 2-C-6-A, National Rd. Brgy. Busay/LA 900	580,000
Res'l Condo/Coralpoint Punta Engano, Lapu-Lapu	**MIN BID BID**
3 Unit 7-B Villa Nautica* /FA 177.75	4,980,000
4 Unit 1-3 A/B Villa Marina* /FA 343.50 *Includes Club Share	13,500,000
PASSI, ILOILO, Brgy. Pangi Genes Viejo	**MIN BID**
5 Lot / L1 Blk2 / LA 265	53,000
6 Lot / L2 Blk2 / LA 243	49,000
7 Lot / L3 Blk2 / LA 256	52,000
8 Lot / L4 Blk2 / LA 276	56,000
9 Lot / L1 Blk3 / LA 230	46,000
10 Lot / L3 Blk3 / LA 220	44,000
ILOILO	**MIN BID**
11 Lot / Lot 1150 B Calle Dela Rama, Monica / LA 383	843,000
12 Agri Lot/Lot B Barrio Anilao, Iloilo /LA 177,839	5,291,000
BACOLOD CITY	**MIN BID**
13 Lot /L843-A Blk 3, Bacolod Bel-Air Subd Tangub/LA 167,375	33,475,000
DAVAO CITY	**MIN BID**
14 Agri Lot/L596-A-K-3-D Nat'l Hi-way Int, Bud-bud/LA 20,393	2,077,000
15 L596-A-K-3-C Nat'l Hi-way Int, Bud-bud / LA 22,585	2,301,000
16 L596-A-K-3-A Nat'l Hi-way Int, Bud-bud / LA 20,107	2,050,000
17 L596-A-K-3-B Nat'l Hi-way Int, Bud-bud/LA 22,789	2,322,000
BUTUAN CITY	**MIN BID**
18 Lot/ L6 B36, Alviola Vill. Ampayon/ LA 320	90,000
ILIGAN CITY	**MIN BID**
19 Lot/ Lot 1 Blk 13, Camague, / LA 5,162	1,216,000
TAGBILARAN CITY	**MIN BID**
20 Lot/L 1521-B-9-B Int., Calceta St, Cogon/LA 400	92,000
21 Lot/L 3260-A, CP Garcia North Ave., Talote /LA 5,500	5,535,000

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY	MIN BID
22 Lot/ L15, Brgy. Balulang /LA 9,302	1,360,000
23 Agri Lot/L3070, Barrio Canitoan /LA 50,076	2,350,000

COMMERCIAL

MANDAUE CITY	MIN BID
24 Ind'l Lot w/ Whse/L 570-A, & 578-B-2 G. Ouano, Mandaue/TLA 2,894 FA 1,838	18,722,000
25 Com'l/ Ind'l Lot w/ Bldg /Ofc/L75-F A. S. Fortuna St., Banilad Mandaue/LA 2,980/TFA 1,468	32,041,000
CEBU CITY	**MIN BID**
26 Comm'l Lot w/ 2 whses/ L1-5, 7-10, Blk 486-B Labangon/TLA 3,344/TFA 3,299	19,800,000
27 Com'l/ Ind'l Lot w/ Bldg Ofc/L4759, 4761, 4768 & Cebu South Rd. Basak Pardo* / LA 6,210 / TFA 4,685	32,000,000
28 Com'l Lot w/ 6 sty Ofc/L7624-C -1-B & 7624-C-3 Colon, Pahina Central, Sambag* LA 660.70 /TFA 2,797	45,603,000
CEBU PORT AREA	**MIN BID**
29 Lot 3 Cabahug St. Cebu Port Area/LA 1,100	9,900,000
DAVAO CITY	**MIN BID**
30 Lot/L519-A-2-A-5-D, JP Laurel Avenue/LA 600	4,500,000
CAGAYAN DE ORO	**MIN BID**
31 Lots w/ Bldg/ Lots 1138-B, 1148-A-2, J. Pacana, Puntod Port Area/TLA 587	3,500,000
MISAMIS ORIENTAL	**MIN BID**
32 Ind'l Lot w/ oil mill /ofc bldgsL3626,954,6815,953,6896, 941, 2693,&6894, 6859 & 3955-B, Old Nat'l Hi-way, Luz Banzon, Jasaan/TLA 5,464/TFA 1,589	6,857,000

JUST BRING P20,000(CASH OR MC) SHOW MONEY TO QUALIFY TO BID FOR EACH PROPERTY.CWT IS FOR THE BUYER'S ACCOUNT. ALL PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS.
Unionbank may, at anytime, withdraw any of the properties listed above prior to auction

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HOUSE & LOT

1. No. 157 Country Drive St., Country Homes Subd., Bo. Soro-Soro, Biñan, Laguna
LA:240 m²;FA:210 m²; P1.8 Million
2. No. 8 Ortega St., San Vicente, San Pedro, Laguna
LA:324m²; FA: 281 m²; P1.8 Million
3. No. 15 Anahaw Street, Valle Verde IV, Pasig City
LA: 911m²; FA:683m²; P30.0 Million
4. 1st St., Peasantville Subd., Iyam, Lucena City
LA: 960 m² ; FA: 310 m²; P4.4 Million
5. No. 82 Violeta Subdivision, Bo. Tabang, Guiguinto, Bulacan
LA: 240m² ; FA: 170 m²; P 1.7 Million

FAST APPROVAL & EASY TERMS!!!

RESD'L. CONDO UNITS

1. Unit 414, Windsor Tower Condo., No. 163 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
FA:55.20m²; P3.0Million
2. Unit P-4, St. Francis Condo., Xavier St., Greenhills West, San Juan, Metro Manila
FA: 251.2m²; P6.0 Million
3. Unit 6-D, 2/F Kamias Twin Condo., No. 6K, 8th St., Kamias, Quezon City
FA : 60.42 m²;P1.7 Million
4. Unit 804 Pearl Plaza Condo., Pearl Drive, Ortigas Centre, Pasig City
FA: 167.06 m²; P7.0 Million
5. Unit 1203, 1703, 1903 Pacific Coast Condo. Project, Coastal Road, Parañaque
FA:164.62m²/unit; P10.0 Million /unit

DIRECT BUYERS & BROKERS ARE WELCOME!!!

VACANT RESD'L. LOTS

1. L13, Blk. 1, Phoenix St., Villa Orion Subd., Fairview, Quezon City
LA: 300.4 m²; P8,000/m²
2. Lot 6, Blk. 3, Boston St., Brookside Hills Subd., San Isidro, Cainta, Rizal
LA: 295 m²; P3,500/m²
3. L4, B14, Kingston St., Vista Real Classica, Matandang Balara, Quezon City
LA: 370 m²; P6,500/m²
4. Lot 6, Blk. 3-E, Orange St., Ruby Park, Victoria Homes, Tunasan, Muntinlupa
LA: 319 m²; P3,500/m²
5. Lot 12, Blk. 21, Road Lot 9-A, Village East Executive Homes, Bo. San Isidro, Angono, Rizal
LA: 400 m²; P1,500/m²

*ALL PRICE ARE NEGOTIABLE & SUBJECT TO CHANGE W/O PRIOR NOTICE

*ALL OFFERS ARE SUBJECT TO MANAGEMENT APPROVAL

* SALE IS ON AS-IS-WHERE-IS BASIS

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

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AGENTS
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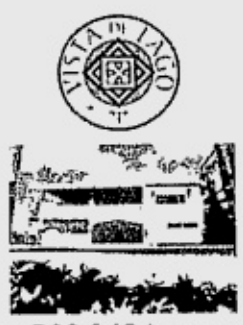
QUEZON CITY

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI



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HOUSE & LOT

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Proj. 4 P2.3M Neg LA154.40 5br 3tb 1Grge 0917-6201629

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ANTEL PLATINUM TOWER
Unit 1901 - Makati - 97.38 sq.m.
2 BR 1 parking

ANTEL SEAVIEW - Tower C
Unit 1906 - Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
3 BR 147.08 sq.m. 2 parking

ASIA TOWER CONDO - Mkti.
Unit 2401 - 1 BR 78.1 sq.m. 1 parking

ASIA TOWER CONDO - Mkti.
Unit 2411 - 1 BR 76.4 sq.m. 1 parking

COMM'L LOT - P. Burgos Pasay
Area - 363 sq.m. lot 1
1,225.46 sq.m. lot 2

FARM LOT - Tagaytay
Area - 10,000 sq.m.

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Lot 4 Block 30
705 sq.m. Dasmariñas, Cavite

PALMRIDGE POINTE LOT
Talisay, Batangas - 397 sq.m.

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HOUSE & LOT

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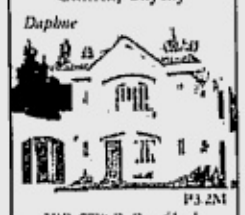

P3.2M
3BR 2T&B, Roofdeck, Balcony, Carport, 144 sqm. floor area, 168 sq.m. lot area
P650Th D/P 6-12 mos.
Bal. 5-15 yrs. at P32Th/mos.
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QUEZON CITY

WHITE PLAINS 632m²
w/2storey house 5BR 4car grge big lawn for swimming pool. P19M negotiable. Pls call 9114705/4649 & look for Tita or Chris 0919-4014983

OTHER AREAS

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Shares/Rsdntl Lots,Condo & H&L 4 sale/buy 8230193/0917-3246744

CAVITE

H/L 4 Sale w/Sari-sari store fully furn. San Rafael St. Exec. Vill. Lot 1 Blk 10 Phase 2, Bacoor Cavite CP-0919-6287230 look for Emilia

LAGUNA

LAGUNA BEL-AIR LA132m² 3Bdrms 2T&B FA84m² P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc. 27/25

MILAN CAMELLA HOMES
2Sty FA210m² LA78m² P2M
Vic 8903461 loc. 27/25

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12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or
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Fully Furnished Studio In Perla Mansion Makati
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MANILA

ESPANA TOWER
nr UST 0917-8102903

NR LA SALLE TAFT
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge
P3.295M 8903461 loc 34

PASIG

Alexandra Call 631-6649

Manggahan VIII CONDO 66m² w/Grge P3M Neg 09177937558

VVERDE 2 60m² 2M 9122304

QUEZON CITY

*CUBAO CONDO
No D/P Pagibig 09178102903

On Antonio Hts 115m² 9122304

LGM Thaus 6.5M neg 202Floor Area 4TB Swimming Pool, Gazebo, Basketball Court, Tennis T4351779 3610855 9241647 09178410620 Text Message

U-16,LVN Townhomes FA186.13 LA58.30 #34-36 P. Tuazon St. Cubao 3stry w/ attic 6M nego 7260644; 7269811

Property 4 Sale 4stry Concrt Condo LA295 Call Ging 9400723; 7248286; 7008172

Rushi Fernandina 88 100sqm 4.5M Neg 3br 2lb 0917-8143792

SCT CASTOR NR MORATO
3br3tb1cg 2.8M neg 6873372

Twnhse Loyola Hts FA155 3BR 2TB, Study Room Md-sRm w/TB P5.5M Frnshd 426-0761 • 0917-8981969

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LE GRAN GHILLS 1BR/2BR Nice View •809-1322/26•

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LOT

ALABANG

LOT 4 SALE ALABANG HILLS 574 SQM •770-4856•

KALOOCAN

300m² Clean Title Sacred Heart Vill Nov. Caloocan P4,500/m² 8954409/9314170

RAINBOW VILLAGE 5 LA216m² P3,473/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 25

BAGUIO

Nr SESSION Rd cor SNDKO TCSON st 1417m² 22T/m² Nr. SM/CTHOL 09173646087

LAS PINAS

180m² Pilar 10yrs2pay 8472626

MAKATI

298m² @P26T/m² T-890-8681

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

MANILA

LOT 160/m² 7137038

MARIKINA

480m² 20T/M² Commercial #396 JP Rizal cor.P. Burgos Sto. Nino Carwork Marikina Reggie- 0917-5393504

MUNTINLUPA

Parkhomes P7K/sqm Raul 6454178

PARANAQUE

CONCORDE VILLAGE 130m² LOT JEORGE 8536433

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA333m² P4.054/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

RUSH SALE !!! Kawilihan VIII Kapayapaan St. 314sqm 0917-8417590 Buyer's Price

QUEZON CITY

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17th Ave.Murphy CUBAO DBO 441M² 5.5M 0919-6213041

2Lots Fillnvest 1476 sqm Call 4358778 ; 4546271 ; 09178970516

500m² E. Rodriguez 7217222

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For Sale Ind'l Lot
With Improvements
2.6has. 0917-8114005

CAPITOL GOLF - Frway Lot 531m² 19T/s 0920-7992913

QUEZON AVENUE
3341m² nr Roosevelt/Roces Commi Lot w/Improvments 3714408/0917-8114005

VILLA ESPANA LA108.50m P12,000/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

RIZAL

Palos Verdes Antipolo 300sq M°3800 w/view 641-0811 0917-8938417

Rushi PILILLA FARM 24hec. P160/m² 9110735 ; 9115631

OTHER AREAS

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RANCHO VISTA SUBD 613m² P2,284/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240sqm P3,125/sqm Vic 8903461 Loc. 27

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TUGUEGARAO- COMML AREA 2560M² 2T/S 09173646087

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BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL LA4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

TOWN&COUNTRY LA180m P3200/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA 128M² P2,900/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

ST CHARBEL EXEC VILLAGE LA 371M² P2,650/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 72 or 25

LAGUNA

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Fully Fenced Title Land
6851 sq m with 500 sq m Covered Bldg. at Brgy. Lawa, Calamba, Laguna with 3Phase Electricity PT&T Connection, Deep Well w/2 Submersible Pumps, Employees Quarters Best for Factory/Warehouse. Pls. Call 043-3181316 or Text 0917-5043033 Linda

MILLWOOD SUBD LA100m² P3,500/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m² LA240m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

PROVINCIAL

Laguna South Pl 4t/m² 9122304

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Bugallon Pangasinan/ 32,00sqm P90/sqm DBO Nilda de Guzman 09167676186

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MANILA

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19-A&B Hillside Street Corner M. Paterno St. 3 BR. 2SO. 3TB. 3 Car P-25T Call-727-3909/725-9069

Mabini St Nerr G'hills 20OT /mo. LA-1250m² 2Stry 8br 5t&b 4cg Den Pool Lanai Ofc Seprt Staff Hse Anya 0918-7175338 / 809-4368

CONDO/TWNHSE

KALOOCAN

162 P. Jacinto cor. #39 Biglang Awa Caloocan 323-0175 Tin-tin

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2 BR F. Furnished
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F-FURN. STUDIO W/CABLE
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MANDALUYONG

1BR FULFURNISH PIONEER Highlands Globe Bldg P22K /mo Executive Utilities OCT01 Call Ann 09178102907 Ruby 7122556 / 7122601

2BR mdsrm 15T 09189420180

PASAY

2BR/2TB nr Taft Edsa Roxas Leah@8509157/Fax 8425780

PASIG

Condo Nr Univ. of Asia & Pacific w/car park 16T/mo. 9305336 • 09179453695

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

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QUEZON CITY

20T/mo FILINVEST II fullyfurn 09273451913 Jun

3BR Valencia corner Castilla St T7267909 / 09175325838 Rowena

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Nr USTmaxim4 8T 7854088

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PARANAQUE

BFP 8T 2BR/grge T8420440

QUEZON CITY

1BR #80 Masikap Ext QC nr Heart Cntr 9293366 4361389

2BR/TB UP/DWN 4376005

8T W/BUS SPACE 3739837

ROXAS District 12T 2BR Rdy for Occupancy 3713237 Ren

STUDIO NR. UP 436-2272

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Pasay Prol 5500254/ 8315026

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Rent of Sale Chrysanthemum San Pedo Laguna T-09168726879

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CARS

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Dhtsu HJet P100K 671-5317

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'00 Adventure GLX green old look 4618316 / 09193882770

02 Adventure SS A/T 9114370 setup P220T neg assumed

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2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 6560140

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

2% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

APPLIANCES

COMPUTER TABLE 7217222

KENWOOD STEREO 7217222

BILLIARDS

237 New Compit SR Imgld 7767507

Brand new w/accessories 8020566

BUY/SELL

EDUCATION PLAN 7137284

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GENERATOR 48KVA 7217222

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DOG TRAINER 4526681

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GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

MISCELLANEOUS

GENERATOR 10KVA YANMAR A1 COND P18T 15TON AIRCOND CARRIER P30T 9219465/4260930

WATCH

BUYING ROLEX WATCH Call 0922-365-3584

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Cook w/ exp. Cook Oriental Dish Cash 7440829 / 7442271

KRAMER PHARMA 9120335 MED. REP. VISMIN AREA

Landscape HORTICULTURIST (Project Supervisor) 25-40y/o Call Emily 9114963; 9114939

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MATRON GUARDIAN LADIES DORM U-belt Apply at 1441 Andalucia St. Sta. Cruz Manila Tel#301-08-31 Bring Resume' Picture, NBI Clearance

PHYSICIAN TEL 715-8998

MALE/FEMALE

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NOTICE OF LOSS

Stk Certs ALC42761,4519 EBE14594,PRC8655,5392, 8048, 11446, UNI33187, ZIP2161, 2163, 168SECB33620 in the name Dolores T. Bautista & PCOR547616, 1398699, 1179732, 651097 in the name Aurelio R. Bautista (PDI-Sept.21,28&Oct.5,2003)

CHEMICAL SALES COORDINATOR
- Female, 20-25 yrs old, sing'e BS Pharmacy, Chemistry, Chem Engg, Bio-chemistry or any four years course graduate
- Accommodating walk-in clients and answering phone-in product inquiry
- In charge in sales data management
- Knowledge of Chinese Language

Interested applicants may send their resume, recent photo & transcript of records to:
P.O. Box 1854 Quezon City

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

PCCI
307th & 308th PCCI ALL-BREEDS DOGSHOWS
RIVERBANKS CENTER
MARIKINA CITY
OCTOBER 18-19, 2003
UNDER INT'L JUDGES
MR. TAKAHIRO MIYAGAWA
(Japan)
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As per AO # 32 S2000 of the Department of Agriculture. Exhibitors are required to bring the updated vaccination records of their dogs duly certified by a veterinarian with an updated PRC license and PTR.

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PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires maybe. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory Amen. Promise to publish this ad as soon as your favor has been granted. R.P.R.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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10am - 7pm daily
10am - 6pm (Sept. 28)

SEMINAR

DATE	TIME	VENUE	PRESENTOR	TOPIC
SEPT 25	10:00AM - 12:00NN	Meeting Room 1	CREBA	Board Meeting
	10:00AM - 12:00NN	Meeting Room 2	Paolo Abrazaldo	"The Construction Industry Blueprint for the Next Ten Years"
	12:00NN - 03:00PM	Leaders Hall	CREBA	Monthly Business Meeting
	02:00PM - 05:00PM	Meeting Room 2	IIEC	Association Meeting
	03:00PM - 05:00PM	Meeting Room 2	CREBA	Convention Meeting
	04:00PM - 06:00PM	Meeting Room 1	NAMPAP	Association Meeting
		Meeting Room 2	UAP District A-2	Association Meeting
	01:00PM - 03:00PM	Meeting Room 2	UAP QC Chapter	Association Meeting
	03:00PM - 06:00PM	Meeting Room 2	PAIDA	"The Field of Building & Property Management Industry in the Philippines"
SEPT 26	8:30AM - 4:00PM	Meeting Room 2	IIEC	"Waste Management Seminar/Workshop" "Energy Efficiency & Sustainable Design" "Waste Minimization & Disposal During Construction" "IIEC Monthly General Membership Meeting"
	2PM - 5PM	Meeting Room 1	Arch. Eduardo Calma	
	2PM - 5PM	Meeting Room 2	PAIDA	"The Professional Building & Property Management as a Profession"
	5PM - 6PM	Meeting Room 2	UAP New Manila Chapter	Association Meeting
	2PM - 5PM	Meeting Room 2	Mark L. Pineda	"Mini Waterfall Zen Garden & Bog Landscaping"
	2PM - 5PM	Meeting Room 1	UAP District A-1	Association Meeting
SEPT 27	2PM - 5PM	Meeting Room 1	ACCAP	"Testing & Control on Concrete & Asphalt" "Different cost of Admixture in Concrete" "Recycling of Used Asphalt" "Woodgrain Type & Procedure/Application"

DATE	TIME	PRESENTOR	TOPIC
SEPT 27	12:00NN - 2:00PM	Lamar Pipe Mfg. Corp.	Pipe Jacking
	2:00PM - 3:00PM	Pipe Systems Marketing	Pipe Systems
	3:00PM - 5:00PM	Pipe Manufacturers Association	Pipe Manufacturers Association Meeting
SEPT 28	12:00NN - 2:00PM	Aggregates & Concrete Association	Aggregates & Concrete Association Meeting
	2:00PM - 4:00PM	Philippine Concrete Pavement Association	Philippine Concrete Pavement Association Meeting
	4:00PM - 5:00PM	Philippine Wood Preservers Association	Philippine Wood Preservers Association Meeting
	5:00PM - 6:00PM	Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers	Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers Meeting

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MANAGEMENT TRAINEES
- Male or Female, not more than 28 years old
- Graduate of any four-year business-related course
- Willing to work in different shifts and long hours if necessary
- Previous experience in the fast-food industry would be an advantage
- With good oral and written communication skills

ASSISTANT RESTAURANT MANAGERS
- Male or Female, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of any four-year business-related course
- Minimum of 1 1/2 years of experience in the fast-food industry, managerial level
- Willing to work in different shifts and long hours if necessary
- With good oral and written communication skills

RESTAURANT GENERAL MANAGERS
- Male or Female, not more than 35 years old
- Graduate of any four-year business-related course
- Minimum of 3 years experience in the fast-food industry, managerial level. Unit/Store Manager preferred
- Willing to work in different shifts and long hours if necessary
- With good oral and written communication skills

Office based:

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANTS
- Male not more than 26 years old
- Graduates of BS Accountancy
- With book keeping and/or auditing background
- Computer Literate
- With good oral and written communication skills

All candidates must be energetic, friendly, and verbose. They should have good interpersonal skills. They must also be pro-active and team players.

We offer a competitive package of salary and benefits. We also offer long-term career opportunities where individuals can aim for the highest possible levels.

All positions are for **IMMEDIATE HIRING**. Interested applicants should mail their **resume with 2x2 photo and transcript** to:

POSITION APPLYING FOR:
Human Resources Department
PERF Restaurants Inc. – Burger King
2/F Topy Bldg #3 Economia St.
Bagumbayan (Libis) QC 1110

Or email their comprehensive resume in text format and position applying for to: **hrd_bk@philking.com.ph**

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Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City 1100, Philippines
Telephone 925-2401

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

DESCRIPTION	Approved Budget	Bidding Fee
One (1) year contract for the fl: Services (January 1 - December 31, 2004)		
a. Security Services	P 11,697,909.00	P 12,000.00
b. Janitorial Services	13,466,588.00	14,000.00
c. Pest Control Services	190,575.00	1,200.00
d. Aircon Maintenance	2,817,461.00	4,000.00
e. Building Maintenance	8,955,221.90	9,500.00
Six (6) months contract for the fl: (January 1 - June 31, 2004)		
1. Medical/Laboratory Supplies		P1,000.00 / co.
2. Pharmaceutical Supplies (medicines)		1,500.00 / principal
3. Foodstuffs Supplies		500.00 / co.

Source of Funding: PHC FUNDS

The list of registration requirements will be issued at the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, Purchasing Division, Basement of MAB, PHC, East Avenue, Quezon City. Only eligible bidders shall be required to pay the non-refundable fee. The deadline for the submission of requirements is on October 15, 2003 not later than 5:00 p.m. For any inquiry, please call Purchasing Division at tel. no. 922-0574 ask for Ms. Noemi Nocasa.

The PHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids or declare a failure of bidding or not award the contract, if there is evidence of collusion between relevant public officers or employees of the PHC and any of the bidders, or among the bidders, or between bidders and third parties, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures. The agency also reserves the right to waive any formality on the bids received, provided that such waiver does not refer to a major deviation in a bid or any requirement provided for in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Executive Order No. 40 pertaining to the substance of the bid. Should such review uncover any misrepresentation made in the eligibility statement, or any changes in the situation of the bidder materially downgrade the substance of such statements, the PHC shall disqualify the bidder upon due notice without any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by it in the preparation of its bids.

(Sgd.) RAUL D. JARA, M.D.
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Sept. 27, 28, Oct. 4 & 5, 2003)

Assistant Management Information System Personnel
- Male, 21-26 yrs. Old. Graduate of 2 years computer course
- Knowledgeable in basic trouble shooting.
- Experience in both hardware and software installation
- Knowledgeable in network implementation
- knowledgeable in windows 98, NT, 2000
- Knowledgeable in Seagate Crystal report an advantage
- Experience in retail business
- willing to travel to different locations in and outside Metro Manila

Marketing Assistant
- 21 – 26 yrs. Old . M/ F
- College Graduate from a reputable school
- Highly creative and must be able to develop marketing programs
- Willing to do field work

Please send resumé with id picture to:

Chris Sports Plaza
3rd Floor K-Plaza bldg.,
#18 Kamuning Road, Quezon City.
Metro Manila Philippines

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given to the public that ***Ms. BLESSILDA E. PASION*** whose picture appears above ceased to be connected with INK FOR LESS, Inc. effective September 11, 2003.

A criminal case for qualified THEFT has been filed against Ms. PASION before the Office of the City Prosecutor of Quezon City and docketed as **IS NO. 03-012536.**

Any transaction entered by the said person for and in behalf of the company from the specified date shall not be honored by the company.

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
National Capital Region
U.N. Avenue, Paco, Manila
Tel. No. (02) 563-9452 Fax No. (02) 564-2072/75

INVITATION TO REGISTER & TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR SECURITY SERVICES FOR NFA-NCR

The National Food Authority, National Capital Region invites all interested private security agencies to register, apply for eligibility and to bid for provision of security services to be deployed at the different NFA designated areas/installations (composed of different NFA district offices) in NFA-National Capital Region with per lot as follows:

LOT	AREA COVERED	NO. OF SG'S	BUDGET
I	CDO & IPSO	62	P10,512,720.00
II	NDO & MTO	66	P11,190,960.00
III	SDO, EDO & CPO	110	P18,651,600.00

Application forms and list of requirements for registration can be secured from the Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC-SS) Secretariat upon submission of a letter of intent and after payment of a non-transferable/nonrefundable registration fee of **PESO TWO THOUSAND (P2,000.00)**.

Only PSA's with Certificate of Official Registration as NFA Security Service Contractor issued by NFA-NCR RBAC_SS may apply for eligibility and to bid for NCR Security Services.

The schedule of activities are as follows:

ACTIVITIES	DATE/TIME
1. Issuance of Application for Registration/Requirements	September 22-30, 2003 (From 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
2. Deadline for Submission of Registration Application & Requirements	Not later than 3:00 p.m. October 8, 2003
3. Issuance of Certificates of Registration & Application/Requirements for Eligibility & to Bid	On or before October 17, 2003 (From 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
4. Pre-Bidding Conference	October 21, 2003, 10:00 a.m.
5. Bidding Proper	November 7, 2003, 9:00 a.m.

The Application Forms, Requirements for Eligibility and to Bid may be obtained from the RBAC-SS Secretariat after payment of a non-transferable/nonrefundable bidding fee in the amount of **TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00)**.

Submission of application for eligibility and to bid and required documents shall be on **November 7, 2003** not later than 9:00 a.m., and the opening of bids at 10:00 a.m. of the same day at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NFA-NCR Building, U.N Avenue, Paco, Manila.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THEREOF, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS FOR OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA AND/OR THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. BASILIDES TACO**
Asst. Regional Manager, NCR & Chairman, RBAC-SS

(PDI - Sept. 20 & 28, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Caraga Region
Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional (AECI)

CARAGA FOOD SUFFICIENCY PROJECT (CFSP)
NEDA Caraga Regional Office
Nimfa Tiu Bldg., J. Rosales Ave., Butuan City
Telefax: 085-3417685

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) of Caraga Region, through the Caraga Food Sufficiency Project, a Spanish Government-funded development intervention invites contractors with PCAB License Category of at least Medium B to register and apply for eligibility, and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the **Construction of Sta. Josefa Farm Level Grains Center (FLGC)** with an approved budget for the contract in the amount of Four Million Four Hundred Seventy-Nine Thousand Two Hundred Pesos (PhP4,479,200.00)

The FLGC is intended to house grains post-harvest facilities, which includes a warehouse, solar dryer, husk storage, perimeter fence and other support structures. The project site is located in Sta. Josefa, Agusan del Sur.

Two copies of the following duly certified eligibility requirements in sealed envelopes must be submitted to **CFSP-NEDA BAC Secretariat, NEDA Caraga, Nimfa Tiu Bldg., J. Rosales Avenue, Butuan City**, to form the basis for the evaluation and assessment for pre-qualification of bidder.

1. Qualification Statements (forms could be obtained from the BAC Secretariat)
2. SEC and/or DTI Registration;
3. 2003 Business Permit;
4. BIR tax registration;
5. PCAB License/Certificate of Renewal of Contractor's License.
6. Audited Financial Statements (stamped received by BIR) for the past three (3) years and bank statements with bank reconciliation statements for years ended 2000, 2001, 2002;
7. Joint Venture Agreement (if joint venture), profile and qualification statements of firms covered with the joint venture;
8. Statement that the contractor is not blacklisted with any government agency, institution or corporation;
9. Certification of Satisfactory Completion issued by the clients for completed contracts for the last three years;
10. Appointment and authority of the Representative to file bid,
11. Xerox copies of sales invoices, lease agreement or deed of sale of the equipment currently owned or leased.

The deadline for submission of Eligibility Requirements in sealed envelope shall be on or before **Oct. 6, 2003, 12:00 noon.**

Bid documents shall be available for issuance to eligible bidders on **Oct. 13, 2003** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP1,500.00. The eligible bidders are requested to inspect site before submitting their bids. All bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes to the above office on or before **12:00 noon of Oct. 28, 2003.** The opening of bids shall be at **2:00 PM** on the same day. Late bids shall not be accepted. The Pre-Bid Conference shall be conducted on **Oct. 13, 2003, 9:00 AM** at the above address

The provisions of E.O. 40 and its implementing rules and regulations, and other applicable rules and regulations shall govern all participants relative to pre-qualification, bid evaluation and award of contract.

NEDA Caraga/CFSP reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. NEDA Caraga/CFSP further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not to award the contract and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **CARMENCITA S. COCHINGCO**
Regional Director, NEDA-Caraga

(PDI-Sept. 21 & 28, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
INSURANCE COMMISSION
1071 United Nations Avenue
Manila

Head Office
P.O. Box 3589 Manila
FAX No. 522-14-34
Tel. Nos. 523-64-61 to 70
E-mail: oic@i-manila.com.ph

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

It has come to our knowledge that a certain Pacific International Insurance Company Limited organized in Apia, Samoa is not licensed by the Insurance Commission to do business in the Philippines either as insurance company or intermediary.

In view of this, notice is hereby given that the Commission cannot extend assistance on a claim arising from a policy that may be obtained from or through said company.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO T. MALINIS**
Insurance Commissioner

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax: 631-06-40
Direct Line: 631-93-42
Trunk Line: 632-13-61 local 2221/2007

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education through the National Education Testing and Research Center (NETRC) is inviting all printers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following packages:

Package	Description	Approved Budget
1	Printing of PEPT Test Booklets	P4,800,000.00
3	Printing of PEPT Non-Classified Materials	P500,000.00

All interested printers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) starting **September 29 - October 10, 2003** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at *http://www.deped.gov.ph.*

A pre-bid conference will be held on **October 7, 2003**, 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. 1, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on **October 21, 2003** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI--Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 2003)

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Fax No. 831-2945

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

MAYA DELA CRUZ SON

REGINA M. DELA CRUZ

Maya Dela Cruz Son and **Regina Macabagdal Dela Cruz**, whose photographs appear above, each have a standing Warrant of Arrest for Qualified Theft docketed as Criminal Case No. 03-1920 and pending before the Regional Trial Court of Makati City, Branch 150.

For any information, please call RAJAH TRAVEL CORPORATION at telephone numbers 5238801 to 07. All information shall be kept confidential.

(PDI – September 28, 2003)

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Zonta confab in Manila

DISTRICT 17 Governor Ma. Imelda "Dandy" S. Gomez announces the holding of its 12th District 17 Conference on October 10-12 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City. Appointed to chair the Organizing Committee is Nonie Basilio. With the theme "together, let's make waves!", the DisCon envisions to bring together the officers and members of the Zonta Clubs from Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines. No less than 500 delegates from Zonta Clubs in the component countries of District 17 are expected to attend. It is an opportunity to strengthen linkages across the District, to discuss common concerns and to "makes waves" for enhancing the quality of life of women and children.

The Organizing Committee has defined specific thematic concerns for discussions during the conference, namely: "The Role of Women in Chaotic World" (Advocates of Peace); "The Domestic Rights of Asian Women in the 21st Century - - Fact or Fiction?" (Rights of Women); and "Save the Earth or Perish" (Environment and Sustainable Development).

Invited to speak are Senator Loren Legarda-Leviste, DSWD Secretary Corazon Soliman and Zonta International Vice President and District 17 Liaison Officer Betty Jane Bourdon from the United States. Zonta International President Margit Webjorn of Sweden will deliver a special message on video.

Hosting this auspicious event are the Philippine-based Zonta clubs under the able leadership of District 17 Governor Ma. Imelda Gomez with Nonie Basilio as Overall Chairperson of the Organizing Committee. Co-chairs for the event are Virina Vergel De Dios, Baby Perez Sison and Tess Castro. Sub-committee heads are Norma L. Chan for Sponsorship and Advertisement, Rosalinda Magat for Program and Nits Honorio for Souvernir Programs among many otehrs sub-committees.

The major sponsors are Equitable PCI Bank, Globe Telecom, Mirant Philippines, VRPMC, Jul B. Dizon Jewellery Salon, Chrysler Phils., San Miguel Corp., Crown Asia Properties, Inc., Metrobank, Development Bank of the Phils., Dermclinic, Diners Club International, Sulpicio Lines, Inc., Pagcor, Petron, Perez Optical, Power Construction Supply Co., Vibal Publishing and Arlu & Dandy Gomez.

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(PDI-Sept. 27 & 28, 2003)

PNOC
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INVITATION TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) invites prequalified/accredited contractors to submit sealed bids for the SECURITY SERVICES of PNOC EC Energy Supply Base located at Mainaga, Mabini, Batangas (BX03-673).

The approved budget for this contract is Php7,814,725.71.

Tender Documents shall be available for issuance at the above address from the Contracts Secretariat (c/o Mr. Carlos L. Mejias and Mr. George N. Alejandro) starting September 29, 2003 upon presentation of Letter of Intent and upon payment of non-refundable fee of PESOS: One Thousand (PHP1,000.00).

The bidding shall utilize a two (2) sealed envelope system. The first envelope shall contain the Technical Bid and the second envelope shall contain the Financial Bid. The Technical and Financial Bids shall be submitted in two (2) sets each to the Contracts Secretariat not later than 3:00 P.M. of October 24, 2003 at the PNOC EC Conference Room located at the above address and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on October 10, 2003, 2:00 P.M. at the PNOC EC Conference Room, Energy Supply Base, Mainaga, Mabini, Batangas.

PNOC EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PNOC EC.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph and in the DBM website at www.procurementservice.net

(Sgd.) RICARDO S. BASALLO, JR.
Chairman Contracts Award Committee

By:

(Sgd.) VICTOR M. NEPOMUCENO
Acting Chairman
Contracts Award Committee

(PDI – September 28, 2003)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION
SSS Building, Ayala Avenue corner Herrera Street, Makati City
Telephone No. 841-4166; Website: www.pdic.gov.ph;
Email: bacsecretariat@pdic.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) invites all authorized manufacturers, distributors, dealers and suppliers to apply for eligibility and if found to be eligible, to bid for the supply, delivery and installation of a Walk-Thru Metal Detector with an approved budget of P0.5MM.

The Terms of Reference is available on October 6-10, 2003, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the BAC Secretariat, 9th Floor, SSS Building, Ayala Avenue corner Herrera Street, Makati City.

Deadline for submission of bids is on October 22, 2003 at 2:00 PM at the same venue, afterwhich the opening of bids will follow immediately.

The eligibility screening of bidders, evaluation of bids and awarding of contract shall be governed by pertinent provisions of RA 9184.

PDIC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, to waive any informality or minor defect, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

PDIC shall in no case be held responsible or liable for any and all costs associated with the bidder's participation in the bidding process regardless of its results.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
(FOR GOODS, SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS)

(PDI—September 20 & 28, 2003)

Career advancement for secretaries seminar

THE Harry Pound Company, a dynamic training firm focused on "positive attitude building" as foundation for all its "skills-based training programs" is holding a public seminar on "Career Advancement for Secretaries" this coming October 30, 2003 from 8-5 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom of the Traders, Hotel, Manila.

The focus of the seminar will be on enhancing the capabilities of the secretary in the contemporary office environment to effectively work with people, information and procedures. More importantly, as representative of the boss or manager, he/she must be equipped with the best competencies that would not only benefit the performance of her superiros and work unit, but the whole company as well.

There will be a lot of new learnings in store to help secretaries/office assistants further excel in their profession; as well as exciting, fun-filled activities that will surely boost their learning mode. For more information, plrdr vsll 404-2753 / 526-1909.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
Roxas Boulevard Corner Pablo Ocampo Sr. Street
Manila 1004
ONE-STOP SHOP INTER-AGENCY TAX CREDIT AND DUTY DRAWBACK CENTER

DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 19-03
13 July 2003

To safeguard the interest of the government as well as the integrity of the tax credit system against the use of fake, tampered, or recycled Tax Credit Certificate (TCCs), the One-Stop Shop Inter-Agency Tax Credit and Duty Drawback Center (Center) is hereby directed to conduct a special revalidation of all outstanding TCCs issued prior to October 1, 2003 as defined under this Order.

Section 1. Objective. The implementation of the special revalidation is intended to determine the outstanding amount of TCCs, as defined in this Order, that are still floating in the market and to prevent the use of expired, stolen, fake, tampered or recycled TCC that may still exist in the market.

Section 2. Coverage and Definition of Terms. (A) The special revalidation shall cover the following TCCs:

1. Jointly issued by the Center and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) under Section 112 of the National Internal Revenue Code, *Refunds or Tax Credits of Input Tax* or TCCs transferred as provided by Revenue Regulations No. 5-2000 using BIR Form Nos. 2310 (Revised: February 2001) and 2320 (Revised: April 1988).

2. Jointly issued by the Center and the Bureau of Customs (BOC) under Section 10p(c) of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines using BOC Form No. 179 (Revised 1981)

3. Jointly issued by the Center and the Bureau of Customs (BOC) under Section 106(b of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines using BOC Form No. 179 (Revised 1979)

(B) The following terms are defined as follows:

a) **Outstanding Tax Credit Certificate(s)** - this consists of all TCCs with creditable/outstanding balances issued under the aforementioned laws, whether originally isssued to the original grantee or transferred from the original grantee.

b) **Special revalidation** - refers to the process of cancellation of outstanding TCCs and the replacement with new form as defined in this order.

c) **Unutilized TCC forms** - this consists of blank TCC forms which are still in the custody of the Center and unreleased to any claimant.

Section 3. General Procedures on the Special Revalidation

1. The Center, in coordination with the BIR and the BOC, shall cause the production of new TCC forms with additional security features to prevent the unauthorized product on and use of fake TCCs. In addition to the information indicated in the existing forms, the new forms shall clearly indicate the legal basis of the issuance, the approving authorities of the BIR and BOC Commissioners and the authority of the Center signatory to release the same to the grantees' official representatives.

   The new forms shall be ready for issuance not later than September 30, 2003.

2. The Center, BIR and the BOC shall issue their respective Office Order, Revenue Memorandum Order and Customs Memorandum Order that will provide for the mechanics for the surrender of all outstanding TCCs forms which are in their custody to the Center for revalidation in compliance with the provision of this guideline.

   On the other hand, the Center shall surrender all unutilized TCC forms in its custody for the appropriate action of the BIR or the BOC.

3. The Center, BOC and the BIR shall require the holders of outstanding TCCs to surrender the same to the Center for special revalidation starting October 1, 2003 up to March 31, 2004.

   Outstanding TCCs not submitted within the revalidation period shall still be allowed for revalidation subject to approval of the Center's Executive Committee.

4. The Center shall accept applications for special revalidation in accordance with the following procedure:

   a. The Center shall check the authenticity of the TCCs to ascertain that there has been no tampering of the forms, that the TCC is validly issued per Center records, and that they are still subsisting and therefore qualified for the issuance of a new certificate corresponding to the unused balance of each TCC.

   b. The creditable balance of the TCCs subject of revalidation shall be based on certifications from the BIR, BOC, and the records of the Center. In case of differences, reconciliation shall be undertaken by the Center.

   c. The Center shall prepare the revalidated TCC using the new forms equivalent to the validated remaining balance. These revalidated TCCs shall be forwarded for the signature by the authorized signatory at the BIR or the BOC.

      The revalidated TCC shall indicate the date of original issuance, date of revalidation and the TCC maturity date. The maturity date of the TCC shall be the same as that of the original issuance and shall undergo regular revalidation as provided by law.

   d. The revalidated TCCs approved by the BIR/BOC Commissioner shall then be signed by the Center's official signatory to authorize the release of the same to the grantee's official representative according to the prescribed procedures.

Section 4. Transitory Provision. The BIR and the BOC are directed to institute measures to prevent the use of fake, tampered, or recycled TCCs during the revalidation period.

Section 5. Effectivity. This Order shall take effect upon completion of its publication in at least 2 major newspapers of general circulation for a frequency of once a week for three consecutive weeks. This Order shall be given as wide publicity as possible.

(Sgd.) **JOSE ISIDRO N. CAMACHO**
Secretary

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SPECIAL REVALIDATION PROGRAM

Pursuant to Department Order No. 19-03 dated July 18, 2003, a Special Revalidation of all outstanding Tax Credit Certificates ("TCCs"), as defined in this guideline approved via Executive Committee Resolution No. 233-27-2003 dated September 24, 2003, issued prior to October 1, 2003 by the Department of Finance- One-Stop Shop Inter-Agency Tax Credit and Duty Drawback Center ("DOF-Center") shall be conducted.

The Special Revalidation entails the surrender of TCCs to the DOF-Center and subsequent replacement of the same with new forms thereby preventing the use of expired, stolen, fake, tampered or recycled TCC that may still exist in the market.

I. ***Coverage and Definition of Terms.*** The special revalidation shall cover the following TCCs:

1. Jointly issued by the Center and the Bureau of Customs (BOC) under Section 106(c) of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines using BOC Form No. 179 (Revised 1981)

2. Jointly issued by the Center and the Bureau of Customs (BOC) under Section 106(b) of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines using BOC Form No. 179 (Revised 1979)

3. Jointly issued by the Center and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) under Section 112 of the National Internal Revenue Code: Refunds or Tax Credit of Input Tax, as well as such TCCs transferred as provided by Revenue Regulations No. 5-2000 using BIR Form Nos. 2310 (Revised: February 2001) and 2320 (Revised April 1988).

The Special Revalidation shall involve the replacement of the above-mentioned TCC forms with new TCC forms with additional security features as follows, reflecting remaining balance of the subject TCC:

1. For Item No. (1) and (2) with OSS-Center Form No. 0302
2. For Item No. (3), with OSS-Center Form No. 0303

It is emphasized that the Special Revalidation shall not affect the TCC maturity date and shall undergo regular revalidation as provided by law.

The Special Revalidation does not cover the following:

1. TCCs issued by the DOF-Center under the provisions of E.O. 226 and other related laws.
2. TCCs solely issued by the Bureau of Internal Revenue National Office and Regional District Offices and
3. TCCs solely issued by the Bureau of Customs

I. Requirements

The TCC holders, either the original grantee or the transferee (in case of transferred TCC), shall directly file their applications for the Special Revalidation to the DOF-Center with the following documents:

1. Sworn letter-request signed by the TCC holder's authorized company officer addressed to:
   The Executive Director
   One-Stop Shop Inter-Agency Tax Credit and Duty Drawback Center
   3/F Department of Finance Building
   Roxas Boulevard Manila 1004

2. Original TCC(s) subject of revalidation
3. Affidavit under oath by the TCC holder as the TCC(s)'s remaining balance, previous usages and ports/1DM-issuing office, if applicable.

The format for Items (1) and (3) can be secured from the DOF-Center office or downloaded from the DOF-Center website:http// taxcredit.dof.gov.ph.

III. Period of Revalidation

The official period for the Special Revalidation shall start on October 1, 2003 and ends on March 31, 2004. Applications filed beyond this period shall only be allowed for revalidation subject to the approval of the Center's Executive Committee.

IV. Criteria for Revalidation

The special revalidation shall cover the authentication of the TCC itself, validation of its issuance, and verification of the revalidation request to establish the following:

1. That the TCC has been duly issued by the Center;
2. That there have been no tampering on the certificate;
3. That the party requesting for the revalidation of the certificate is its rightful owner;
4. That the TCC is not yet expired; and
5. That the TCC is not yet fully utilized.

When these criteria are met, the TCC subject of request shall qualify for the issuance of the new form reflecting the remaining balance of the TCC.

V. Transitory Provision

The DOF-Center shall stop issuing Tax Debit Memos to TCCs in old forms starting October 1, 2003. All applicants for Tax Debit Memos ("TDM") are required to comply with the requirements of this Guideline prior to the issuance of TDM.

VI Other Matters

- In case of lost TCC(s), the claimant shall submit a notice of loss to the Center within the revalidation period and shall be required to comply with the procedures and requirements provided under the guidelines for the replacement of lost TCCs.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO Q. HIANSEN**
Executive Director, DOF-Center

Noted:

Undersecretary **MA. GRACIA PULICO TAN**
Chairperson, DOF-Center Executive Committee

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• Male, at least 23 years old, preferably CPA • willing to go on field and out of town assignments • a strong background in financial and operation audit • can design audit systems, policies and procedures.

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• Male, at least 25 to 35 years old, Accounting graduate • computer literate, with at least one year experience

Sales Officer

• Male/Female, 24 to 30 years old • graduate of Marketing, Architecture, Interior Design Engineering • proficient in both written and oral English • preferably with selling experience in the construction industry

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Intramuros, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) invites all interested bidders to participate in the bidding for the supply of the following services:

	SERVICES	ESTIMATED CONTRACT COST
1	SECURITY SERVICES	Seven Million Five Hundred Thirty-Nine Thousand One Hundred Forty-Two Pesos and 95/100 (7,539,142.95)
2	JANITORIAL SERVICES	Four Million Four Hundred Thirty-Four Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Pesos and 55/100 only (P4,434,280.55)

Only contractors duly registered with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) may be allowed to participate in the eligibility screening. Unregistered contractors must register at the Property Division, Administrative Service, 2nd floor DOLE Bldg., Intramuros, Manila starting September 29, 2003.

Registered bidders can secure checklist for eligibility from the Property Division, Administrative Service, 2nd floor DOLE Bldg., Intramuros, Manila. Eligibility documents shall be submitted to the DOLE Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) in a sealed envelope marked with the title of the item/project to be bid and the name of the bidder in capital letters addressed to the undersigned on October 16, 2003 for Security Services and October 17, 2003 for Janitorial Services between 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. only, at the Conference Room, 2nd floor DOLE Executive Bldg., Intramuros, Manila. Registered bidders are invited to witness the eligibility check on said dates at exactly 2:30 p.m. at the same venue. Late submission shall not be accepted.

Only eligible bidders are allowed to attend the Pre-bid Conference on October 23, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. for Security Services and October 24, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. for Janitorial Services at the Conference Room, 2nd floor DOLE Executive Bldg., Intramuros, Manila.

Eligible Bidders are also enjoined to inspect the DOLE premises prior to the conduct of the pre-bid conference in coordination with the General Services Division, Administrative Service and to present personally their proposals on the date of the bidding. Price Proposal and Bid Security shall be submitted and opened by the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) on November 12, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. for Security Services and November 13, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. for Janitorial Services at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor DOLE Executive Bldg., Intramuros, Manila. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The Department of Labor and Employment reserves the right to reject any or all bids, without offering any reason, waive any informality therein and make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the department. The DOLE assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

For further inquiries/information please call at telephone numbers 527-3480 and 527-3483.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO S. CRUZ, M.D., P.H., CESO II
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee and
Assistant Secretary for Internal Affairs

(PDI – Sept. 28 & Oct. 6, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education, Culture and Sports
SECONDARY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (SEDIP)
National Project Management Office (NPMO)
3rd and 5th floors, Bonifacio Building, DECS Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City
Telephone Nos. 635-98-22 and 631-07-60, Telefax No. 635-98-26
DECS Trunkline 632-1361 Loc. 2011 and 2063

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Loan No. 1654-PHI: Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP)
IFB No ADB-TXT-LP-SEDIP-2003

1 The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepEd) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards financing the cost of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the printing and delivery of the following:

Package A: Science I-II textbooks and teacher's manuals
Package B: Science III-IV textbooks and teachers' manuals
Package C: Lesson Plans

2 The DepEd through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the printing only and delivery of the following:

2.1 Package A: 455,165 copies of Science I-II textbooks and 4,304 copies of teachers' manuals to be delivered to 1,187 individual high schools in the 26 provinces covered by SEDIP.

2.2 Package B: 367,397 copies of Science III-IV textbooks and 3,557 copies of teachers manuals to be delivered to 1,187 individual high schools in the 26 provinces covered by SEDIP.

(Reprinting of science textbooks developed by the National Institute of Science and Mathematics Education (NISMED) with the copyright owned by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines).

2.3 Package C: 64,659 copies of lesson plans for Science I-IV, Filipino I-IV and English I-IV to be delivered to 26 Division Offices and 17 Regional Offices nationwide

3 The mode of procurement shall be through International Shopping (IS). A bidder may opt to bid on any or all of the lots required

4 Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid forms and inspect the bidding documents from the BAC office, ground floor, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City. Tel #6321361 loc 2019 or visit the DepEd Website at http://www.deped.gov.ph or the DBM Procurement Service at http://www.procurementservice.org

5. A complete set of bidding documents may be obtained for free by interested bidders starting October 1, 2003.

6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than 2.5% of the total bid amount and must be delivered in accordance with the instructions to bidders on or before 10:00 a.m. on October 28, 2003 and will be publicly opened immediately thereafter at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

7 Prior to the bid opening, a pre-bid conferece will be held on October 14, 2003 at the same time and address as indicated in paragraph 6

8. The DepEd reserves the right to accept and reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process at any time prior to award of contract without incurring any liability to the affected bidders and to waive any minor informality or non-conformity in a bid which does not constitute a material deviation, provided such waiver will not prejudice or affect competitive ranking of any bid

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary and Chairperson,
Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)

(PDI-Sept. 28 & Oct. 5, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
INTER-AGENCY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS) invites G-EPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF COMBAT BOOTS and PONCHO TENT for the ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP).

The approved budget for these contracts are P57,885,600.00 for Combat Boots and P35,213,740.00 for Poncho Tent.

All interested parties are invited to attend the Pre-Bid Conference for Combat Boots on Tuesday, October 14, 2003, at 9:30 A.M. and the Pre-bid Conference for Poncho Tent on the same day at 1:30 P.M. at the PS Conference Room, Room 207, PS Complex, Cristobal St., Paco, Manila

The bid documents shall be available at the PS-PURCHASING DIVISION starting September 22, 2003 upon payment of non-refundable fee of Six Thousand Pesos (Php6,000.00) for Combat Boots and Four Thousand Pesos (Php4,000.00) for Poncho Tent.

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes at the bid box located at the PS Conference Room at the above mentioned address. Deadline for submission and receipt of bids shall be on October 28, 2003 at 9:30 A.M. for Combat Boots and 1:30 P.M. for Poncho Tent.

For more information, please call the PS-Purchasing Division at telephone nos. 563-94-02 or 563-93-74.

PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO P. OPIDA
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI-Sept. 21 & 28 2003)

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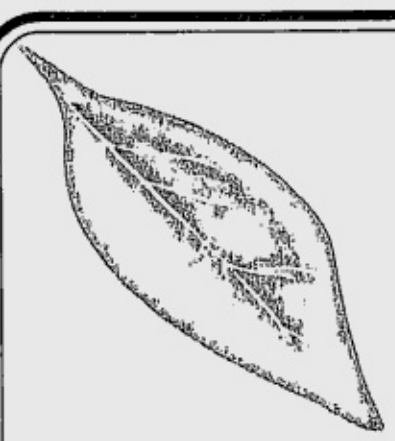

Even the falling of a leaf has a reason.....

LOURDES JIMENEZ-CARVAJAL

In the embrace of Our Lady of Manaoag, Caysasay and Naju on September 26, 2003.

Her children, **Dollyanne**, **Rikki** and **Clara**; her partner, **Gene Palomo**; grandchildren, **Bianchi**, **IC**, **Camille**, **Carl**, **Cindy**, **Sam**, **Steph** and **Smile**; brothers and sisters, **Letty**, **Annette**, **Pat**, **Nats**, **Tad** and **Butch**; daughter-in-law, **Nancy**; brothers-in-law, **Dr. Carlos Magsanoc** and **Perry Fontanilla**; sisters-in-law, **Ely Basa**, **Pilar Paz** and **Ellen Dacanay**; uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Celebrate **Inday Badiday** and thank the Lord for giving us the brightest star ever to shine on our life. *Kamsa Hamnida,* Lord.

She is now in Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment date will be announced later.

"You will forever be in our hearts, PAPA"

GABRIEL NAELGAS DELA CRUZ (Ret.)

Chief City Prosecutor, Caloocan City
of Camiling, Tarlac and Quezon City

Passed away in the grace of our Lord on September 26, 2003 at the age of 72.

He is survived by his wife **Virginia Lingasin dela Cruz**, children **Gerry** and **Mia**, **Jo Ann**, **Ray** and **Cora**, and **Grace Marie**; grandchildren, relatives and friends. We request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, September 30, 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

The Diocesan Administrator, the Clergy,
and the Christian Faithful
Of the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Pablo
and the
Family, Relatives and Friends
announce with deep sorrow the demise of

REV. MSGR. FIDEL M. MENORCA, H.P.

(April 24, 1930 – Sept. 23, 2003)

His remains was interred at the San Pablo Memorial Cemetery following the Funeral Concelebrated Mass at the San Pablo Cathedral 9:00 a.m., Friday, September 26, 2003.

May we request you to please pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

MARIANO F. RIVERA

Bocaue, Bulacan & Quezon City
Died peacefully in the grace of our Lord on September 26, 2003
at the age of 74.

His bereaved wife Lina; children Cynthia & Jeffrey Rosuman, Adelfa & Medwin Villarica, Jose & Marie Cris Bautista; grandchildren Raymund and Raiza; relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine at Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, September 30, 2003 at Marian Garden Memorial Park, Bundukan, Bocaue, Bulacan after the 3:00 PM Mass.

ATTY. REYNALDO GESMUNDO AZORES

Peacefully joined his Creator on the 26th of September, 2003.

His loving family, other relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose and happiness of his soul.

His body lies in state at Capilla San Aemiliani of Arlington East, The Garden Chapels, 1354 Raymundo Avenue, Pasig City.

Cremation will be on October 01, 2003 (Wednesday), 1:00 p.m. at La Funeraria Paz - Crematorium, Quezon City.

HERMENEGILDO G. CAMAYA
"TAMENG"

Died : Sept. 25, 2003
Age : 61
Born : April 13, 1942

Wife: Norma; Children: Carol – Bhal, Ferdie - Suzette; Edgar – Joan; and Grandchildren

His body lies in state at the family residence in Brgy. Maburak, Gapan City, Nueva Ecija

Interment will be on Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2003 - 1:00 p.m. at Gapan Memorial Garden, Gapan City Nueva Ecija.

Compliments of LA CONSOLACION FUNERAL SERVICES

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late JOSE BUSTAMANTE CATINDIG, M.D., who died on August 26, 2003, thank all of you who, by your presence, prayers, cards and flowers, offered us solace and comfort in our time of bereavement.

We also thank you for joining us in remembering him and the many ways in which he touched our lives.

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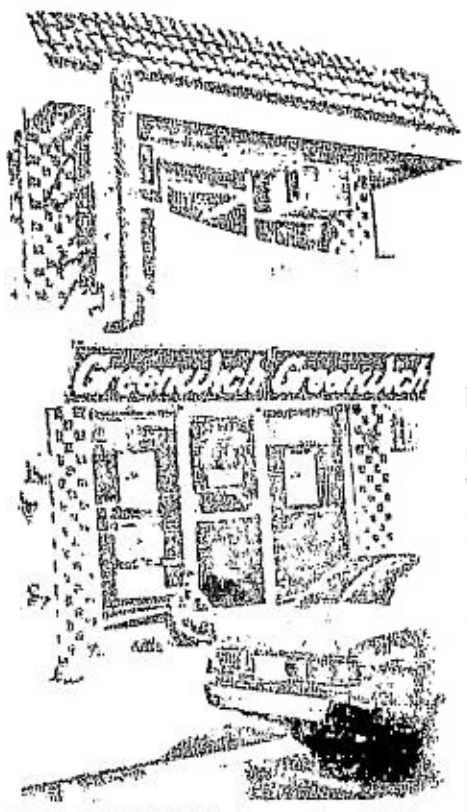
DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS

Sunday BIZ

Lady gives up pizza chain to serve God



THE GREENWICH pizza parlor of old

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

CRESIDA C. Tueres was a simple housewife who was not content being idle. She always kept herself occupied and indulged in her hobbies such as making bags and designing clothes.

Tueres made a business out of her hobby and put up a boutique to meet the growing demand for her clothes.

As destiny would have it, she got interested in making pizzas. She put up a small pizza parlor beside her boutique using her own special pizza sauce that she put together herself.

She called it Greenwich because she was inspired by the Greenwich village in New York, and also because her boutique was in the Greenhills area with the students as her first clients.

That single store that became a popular hangout for students from neighboring schools eventually became 50 until 1994 when Tueres decided it was time to hang up the pizza hat she wore for 20 years.

She felt it was time to sit back and enjoy the rest of her life and devote more time to prayer and service to God.

Other people on top of the business world may find it hard to let go of a successful business but Tueres did because she felt that there was more to life than just running a successful business.

In a sharing entitled "God's Rebuilding Action In Our Lives", that she wrote in a book, entitled, "A Collection of Homilies and Inspirational Talks for Contemplation," that she went into a deep depression in 1990 despite financial stability and the fact that Greenwich was constantly on top.

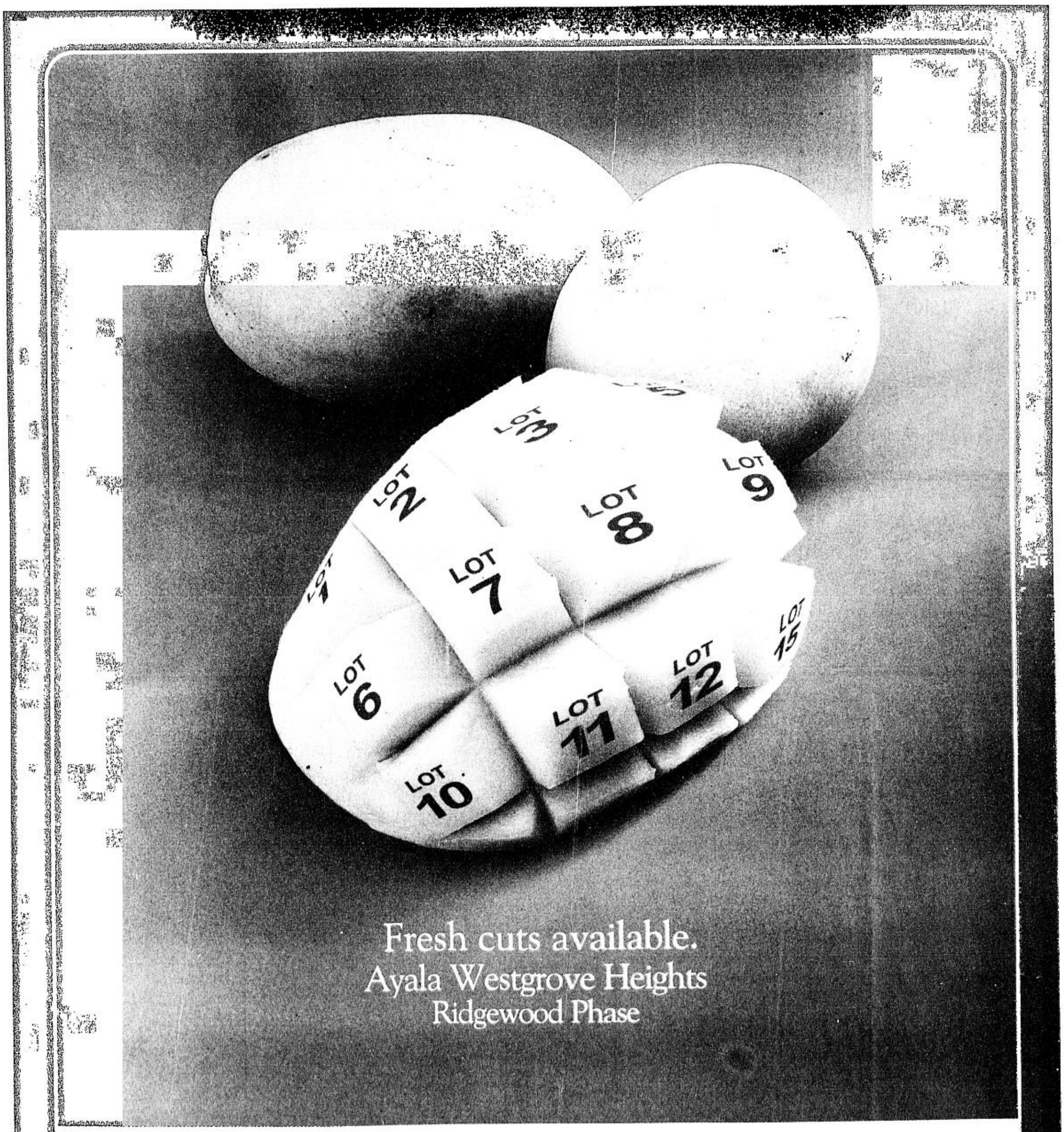
She got out of her depression with the help of her friends and she realized at that time that Greenwich was a fruit of the talent that God gave her and that she was responsible and accountable for the company.

"I rolled up my sleeves once again and in 1991, celebrated Greenwich's 20th anniversary with 350 employees dependent on it. Such enormous responsibility and a privilege to be part of God's plan in His garden," she says.

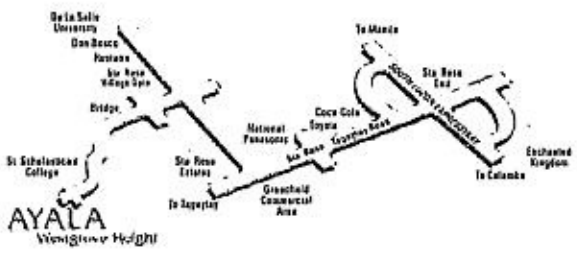
"As I went on, a prayer or wish in my heart was that I can pass on to others the professional care I give to GFI so I can devote 60 percent of my time to my apostolate or whatever God plans for me," Tueres adds.

She, however, felt that she could not leave her business to just anyone. Her four children were capable of handling the business, but they were also involved in their own individual pursuits and would be con-

LADY/ B2



Your home amidst the hills and groves.



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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Goodbye, Inday

THE QUEEN is dead.

Inday Badiday, real name Lourdes Jimenez Carvajal, in her lifetime was known as the Queen of Intrigues. No one is ready to wear that crown.

Many have learned from her, but no one can yet make superstars and play godmother to a mudfish at the same time without losing the public's respect. No one has yet mastered her knack for asking the right probing questions at the right time, for probing and then pulling back without really hurting.

Her show biz talk shows are memorable, like her laughter and her closing line, "Saranghameda," but it is best to remember Inday in her own words.

In an interview with INQUIRER Entertainment in 2002, Inday was asked which she loved to do most, TV, radio, print.

She said: "Radio and print are more freewheeling. You can choose the topics you like. *Mas nailalabas mo ang* innermost feelings *mo, mas* open *ka.* Unlike *sa* TV *mas limitado ang oras at ang* emotion."

Why did show biz reporting today jolt her?

GOODBYE/ C4

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2	Heavier Things John Mayer keyword: clarity keyword: thankyouvery	10	Sarah Geronimo Sarah Geronimo keyword: sarahsingh	19	Meteor Garden II Original Soundtrack
3	Playlist Paolo Santos	11	Forward John Trones keyword: justsouknow	20	Waking Hour Vienna Teng
4	A.K.A.: Almost Kinda Acoustic Various Artists	12	Fantasy 4ever F4	21	Round 2 Sexbomb Girls
5	Bigotilyo Parokya Ni Edgar	13	Dangerously In Love Beyonce Knowles	22	Bling Bling Various Artists
6	Metamorphosis Hilary Duff keyword: workinitout	14	Beautiful Because Love Is Various Artists	23	Body Will Sing Vaness
7	Acoustic Night Live Various Artists keyword: cumeflaura	15	Meteor Rain F4	24	The Art Of Letting Go Various Artists
8	Chasing Time II Martin Nievera keyword: cupuyon	16	The Piano Player Maksim	25	Come Away With Me Norah Jones
		17	Nyoy Volante with Mannos Nyoy Volante		

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Our fascination with celebrity

JUICE

Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon

IT'S NOT surprising that we're all hooked. All the elements of celebrity are after all present in the unfolding saga of this star-crossed affair. And being right regular folk, we can barely help ourselves.

Forbidden love

The affair is forbidden, to begin with. Both church and state expressly forbid it. He is not legally free; she has just come out of a legally unacceptable liaison that produced one child. He is a well-known mayor in a major metropolis who must tread lightly past the complex morality clauses governing local officials; she is a famous host for show biz, game, and lifestyle programs in a giant television network. Neither can afford to be careless with their public image.

But the two, after flaunting the very conventions that rule their fans, have managed to stay extremely popular.

They had lived together for months. It was she he went home to; it was he and his daughters by another woman she took loving care of. **Josh**, her own son, kissed him as the boy might his real father. The couple was happy, especially when they were not fighting, but even when they were those many times, they must've believed theirs were the passionate excesses of a great love, for they stayed tight for a year and a half.

No live-in couple in the country today have the same level of celebrity as **Joey** and **Kris**. Yet no two lovers can be more different one from the other.

She is the spoiled daughter of a political figure assassinated, it is believed, on the orders of a former President; he is the abandoned son of a film director with whom he never made complete peace. Her mother is an *heredera* who became President at a difficult juncture of our country's politics; his mother is the daughter of a slaughterhouse butcher, who, alone and amid want, brought him up and his four other siblings.

Doomed?

Even their closest friends who wished them happiness knew that theirs was a match made far from heaven.

He is unwaveringly traditional, plainly macho, and thinks the ideal woman is one who will stay home to take care of him and the kids, period; she is thoroughly modern, unfettered by ornate morality, and revels at being a top moneymaker in the rich entertainment scene.

Her ways are very Western, and she expresses herself fluently, rapidly, flamboyantly; he is largely colloquial, speaks with more ellipses than words, but is saved by a native gift for humor. She likes to play clueless, and probably is, about how the other half lives; he likes to appear committed, but probably is not, except for his political career.

They were both waiting for the same thing: to make their union legal. He, so that he may at last demand that she choose between him and her career; she, so that she may at last do right by her religion and her family.

Battle of wills

In the meantime, theirs was a constant and tiring battle of wills. He believed he was taming the shrew; she believed she was reforming the notorious ladies man. Whenever they did so, their dark sides showed.

She says now that he liked making her feel small; he says he was simply making her face up to reality. Her dialogue was said to have gone: "I'm No. 1, I have 56 percent of the market, I'm a moneymaker for ABS, I'm rich!"; his was: "You're No. 1 now, you will be No. 2 tomorrow, and then No. 3 after. That's reality. Learn humility. You're not rich, your mom is!"

But sometimes, the dialogue got much darker. She was supposed to be capable of saying: "I'm more popular than you. People will believe me. I can make you look like the most evil man in the world!" He was supposed to be capable of: "*Do you think pag nalaman 'yan ng buong Pilipinas, may lalaki pang magpapakasal sa iyo?... Pasalamat ka na nagtitiyaga ako sa iyo.*"

With their dark angers hitting national television on prime time, our fascination continues.

She and he are, of course, both media savvy.

She takes to public cynosure like fish to water, understands the game, plays it superbly; he is a veteran of sports and movies and television, with a public persona guided by the country's premier manager-publicist, **Douglas Quijano**. She makes a mistake, and the full force of her station goes into overdrive; he gets into trouble, and his machinery is oiled and set into motion.

But here, she has the edge. Her station has invested and gambled in her, and as today's drama of their failed romance shows, the station will throw reportorial fairness to the wind for her: blocking both print and broadcast media even at PACER, the government compound where she went to have the incident blottered; ignoring Joey's side completely particularly in the first days; and attaching a musical score to an interview that went from acceptably sympathetic to cloyingly partisan.

JOEY AND KRIS at the birthday party of Richard Gomez last April.

PHOTO COURTESY OF YES! MAGAZINE

Her other self

On her own, Kris is unquestionably a compelling celebrity. She has always had the gift of being able to capture her real self for the tube. And with that self bathed in nice perfume, bubbly candor, and even narcissistic delight—she had households glued excitedly to her programs. Now that she has opened the door to her other self, the self that knows jealousy and emotional fatigue, that inflicts pain on herself, that sometimes wants to die—she has even more households glued with bated breath.

Joey comes from the opposite end of media control. He is tight-lipped about his personal life, does not enjoy having his birthday gift to her revealed via domsat, and studiously keeps the complex history of his romantic liaisons under wraps—and ends up making the public want more.

Now that he's the subject of one of the most intense media scrutinies ever foisted on a show biz star (the only parallel in recent memory being the **Dolphy-ZsaZsa** liaison when it broke open), but has not said enough—he ends up making the public want even more.

When all is said, she understands that 85 percent of the public believes her story; he understands that outside Parañaque he is politically dead.

The two remain at an impasse: "Tell the truth!" he prods; "I am not a liar!" she retorts.

And thus our fascination is sealed. We pry into the intimate world of these two famous people, eager for more details, some of us probably gleefully, as the hoi polloi is known to be in the presence of fallen celebrity. At its worst, we might say there's a voyeur in each of us; at its kindest, we might say we're all suckers for a love story gone sour.

Tomorrow, we should know if the two would have come to a verbal agreement that would keep a suit at bay, or if she would have filed a case against him and what the specific charges will be.

But today, the only thing we know is that Kris and Joey are both the big losers here—and, because we lost our heads as well, so are we.

Send feedback to joann.maglipon@summitmedia.com.ph

GMA 7: ABS high ratings won't happen every day

By Marinel R. Cruz

GMA 7 was "not bothered" by the high ratings that ABS-CBN's "TV Patrol" earned last Wednesday night for its exclusive tell-all interview with Kris Aquino because it "was an artificial increase triggered by the viewers' interest in the controversy."

ABS-CBN's "TV Patrol" garnered 47.2 percent for Korina Sanchez's interview with Kris Wednesday night, while GMA 7's "Frontpage" in the same time slot got only 18.3 percent, according to a copy of the unofficial ratings from AGB Philippines People Meter Survey for Mega-Manila on Sept. 24.

INQUIRER Entertainment obtained a copy of the ratings survey the day after the interview.

Wilma Galvante, GMA 7 vice president for entertainment, said the "TV Patrol" high ratings for Wednesday night were "expected because the topic is controversial."

"But we're not bothered because it's not an everyday occurrence," she added.

In the interview, Kris revealed shocking details of her turbulent relationship and violent fights with comedian and Parañaque City Mayor Joey Marquez.

A source, who obtained a copy of AGB Philippines' unofficial survey results for Sept. 25, said "TV Patrol" returned to its "normal" rating of 34 percent and "Frontpage" to 29 percent on Thursday night, the day after the Kris Aquino interview.

The ratings become official only when AGB Philippines releases them a week after the monitored telecast.

"It's not a continuing thing," added Butch Raquel, GMA 7 officer-in-charge for corporate communications.

"They cannot sustain this every day for 10 years," Raquel added.

INQUIRER Entertainment learned that during the portion when "TV Patrol" ran an uninterrupted 35-minute interview with Kris from the family home on Times Street in Quezon City, the show's ratings shot to 53 percent.

"The same thing happened when Rico Yan was buried," said Raquel. "That didn't last for a week."

Actor Yan, 27, died in his sleep on Good Friday last year at Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan.

ABS-CBN, Yan's home studio, preempted six hours of regular programming to air a live, minute-by-minute coverage of the funeral rites from La Salle Greenhills to Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque.

"We will never bleed the issue dry," said Galvante of the Joey Marquez-Kris Aquino issue. "We really make an effort to find out how much of the issue the viewers can still take."

Aside from "TV Patrol's" interview with Kris, the late-night newscast "Insider," anchored by Karen Davila and Cito Beltran, also aired a news analysis on the controversy on Wednesday night.

ABS-CBN replayed Kris' interview the following day on "Morning Girls," the talk show she co-hosts with Sanchez. Thursday night, "Dong Puno Live" featured Kris' brother, Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, lawyer Katrina Legarda, and a female psychologist, who discussed possible legal moves for Kris.

Luchi Cruz-Valdez included a feature on the Joey-Kris split-up on her investigative tele-magazine show "Special Assignment," also on ABS-CBN.

Marquez appeared live on GMA 7's "Frontpage," anchored by Mel Tiangco, while Kris was being interviewed on the rival channel last Wednesday.

Marquez and Kris' lawyer Raymond Fortun were interviewed by Arnold Clavio on GMA's "Saksi" the same night. "Jessica Soho Reports" on GMA featured the same controversy shortly after.

The GMA morning talk show "Sis," hosted by sisters Janice and Gelli de Belen, featured Marquez on Thursday. Thursday night, "Debate," also on GMA, featured Marquez's sister Melanie Marquez and INQUIRER columnist Rina Jimenez-David in a noisy debate on who, between Kris and Joey, people should believe.

Alma: I feel for Kris, but I won't...

From page C8

"I am not aware that he owned unlicensed guns," Alma added in Filipino.

The actress, one of the hosts of the show biz talk show "Star Talk" on GMA 7, said she also never contracted a sexually transmitted disease (STD) from her estranged husband.

"The only illness that I was diagnosed with during our time together was multiple sclerosis," she said.

'Sinapak ko siya'

Kris on Wednesday announced to the world, in an interview by Korina Sanchez on "TV Patrol," that she acquired STD from Marquez who Kris said had threatened to make public the incident.

The daughter of slain Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. and former President Cory Aquino had said the STD caused profuse bleeding but that she was eventually cured of it after a three-week treatment.

Alma admitted that she and Joey also had violent fights toward the end of their marriage. In one of those fights shortly before they separated, Joey had slapped her, she said.

"*Sinapak ko rin siya ng cell phone sa mukha* (I smashed a cell phone on his face)," she said. "But he never hurt me seriously that I had to go to a doctor."

When she heard her estranged husband on TV talking about how he had just wanted to walk out of the room and Kris' rage during their latest fight, she believed him, Alma said.

"Joey is really like that," she said in Filipino. "If he's fed up with you, he would just walk away. He would never fight back physically."

'I am the victim'

Jealousy had also triggered their own violent fights, she said. But they mostly fought about the usual things that husbands and wives quarrelled about, like Joey's broken promises and his lack of time for their children.

The couple have four children—Yeoj, Win Win, BJ and Em-em. Alma also has a son with actor Rudy Fernandez, Mark Anthony.

She said the first thing that occurred to her when she heard of the split of Joey and Kris was that the children would be dragged into the mess.

She continued in Filipino: "If you think about it, I am the victim here and the children. I was already victimized before when their relationship was made public. I was humiliated by Joey on TV. No one was on my side while the whole world was on theirs. Please give me and my children peace. Peace. So that everybody is happy."

Alma claimed she sympathized with Kris, saying they were both women and were both hurt. She also said that she had long forgiven Joey and Kris.

"I knew they were already living together in Essensa," she said. "Even while I was still trying to work things out with Joey, they were already seeing each other."

Different situation

While she feels for Kris, Alma will not put Joey down.

"He is the father of my children," she said. "I can't put him down."

But she denied that she would welcome him if ever he wanted to reconcile with her. "The situation between us is different now," she said. "I have other things to consider. It would not be easy."

She said Joey had not talked to her about speaking up for him, saying "he

ALMA/ C3

'Triumph of art and faith'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHEN superstar **Mel Gibson** announced last year that he was planning to make a film about the last days of **Jesus Christ**, many Hollywood observers wondered why he would think of doing anything so "far out" for him.

Their consternation increased when Gibson revealed that his movie's dialogue wouldn't be in English, but in the Latin, Hebrew and Aramaic languages as they were spoken in Jesus' time.

How, the naysayers wanted to know, could the movie even hope to earn back its producers' investment when it was going to be so abstruse and inaccessible?

Soon, another problem reared its pointy head: Jews were attacking the movie because its violent scenes were expected to fan the flames of anti-Semitism.

Those bloody sequences were also problematic because they could turn off sensitive viewers and cause the film to get a restricted classification that would drastically reduce its potential audience.

So, Gibson's "The Passion" appears to have gotten off on the wrong foot. Or, has it? Recently, something positive (for a change!) has happened to the project: Some church officials have given it rave preview reviews, and a cardinal has even lauded it as "a triumph of art and faith."

The officials don't agree that the movie is anti-Semitic, and believe that its violent treatment of Christ's passion and crucifixion is merited. Jesus really suffered a lot before he died, and it's important that today's Christians are reminded of that fact so they can truly appreciate his supreme sacrifice for mankind.

How will "The Passion" fare in the Philippines, if and when it's shown here next year? Will its violent scenes result in a restrictive audience classification that will prevent young viewers from seeing it?

How will local viewers react to the "dead" languages the movie employs? Will they find it easy to empathize with **Jim Caviezel**'s tormented portrayal of Christ? Will our pious *manangs* and *manongs* inveigh against its ultra-realistic treatment of the last days of the son of God—and Man?

The answer could be found in those last few words: Jesus Christ had both divine and human natures, which should be dealt with equally for viewers to be truly able to understand and empathize with him and the salvific mission for which he lived and died.

BLOOD RED. Caviezel plays Christ in Gibson's "Passion."

'Bago Yan, Ah!'

AC NIELSEN'S Radioscope survey has given dzMM's educational radio program, "Bago Yan, Ah!," the highest ratings for all Sunday afternoon shows on AM radio in Metro Manila.

Angelo Palmores has been hosting the show for seven years. The science program is broadcast from 3 to 5 p.m. every Sunday over dzMM, 630 KHz.

The show has launched two new segments, "The Fisheries School-on-the-Air" and "Teachers' School-on-the-Air." It has been cited by the Catholic Mass Media Awards, the KBP's Golden Dove Awards, and the Department of Science and Technology.

Auditions for 'Grethology'

GANTIMPALA Theater Foundation will hold auditions for its new musical production, "Grethology," from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Rehearsal Hall, Concert at the Park Auditorium, Rizal Park, Manila. Call 528-0603 for details.

Kitano at Dream Theater

SEVEN movies by acclaimed Japanese filmmaker **Takeshi Kitano** will be screened from Sept. 30 to Oct. 3 at the Dream Theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Schedule:

Sept. 30, 6:30 p.m., "Fireworks." Oct. 1, 4 p.m., "Violent Cop;" 6:30 p.m., "Kids Return."

Oct. 2, 4 p.m., "Kikujiro." Oct. 3, 4 p.m., "Boiling Point;" 6:30 p.m., "Sonatine."

In celebration of Asean-Japan Exchange Year 2003, Eiga Sai 2003 will feature the Asean collaborative film, "Southern Winds" at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 2. Filipino filmmaker **Mike de Leon** directs one of the episodes in the anthology film.

Feedback

FROM **Boy Blue Filomeno**, spokesperson of the Philippine Alliance Against Pornography: "We are very disappointed that the MTRCB review committee approved the showing of the films 'www.xxx.com,' 'Kalabit' and 'First Time.' These movies exhibit nudity, breast exposure and mashing, wild sex acts, etc. These aren't works of art but are meant to satisfy the market for lust and pornography..."

Flute and Opera

THE MCO Foundation presents flutist **Ray Sison**, soprano **Kay Balajadia** and pianist **Rudolf Golez** in concert at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 3 at the Francisco Santiago Hall. They will be performing pieces by Bach, Rachmaninoff, Chopin, Albeniz, Handel and Liszt. Call 818-1403 or 840-7000 locals 2630 and 2258.

Alma: I feel for Kris...

From page C2

does not need my help." She said she only decided to talk after reading erroneous reports in media that she and Joey had reconciled to gang up on Kris.

But she defended Joey in his love for Kris. "Of course he loved her," she said. "He walked out on me and our children. He gave up his family. We could have talked things over."

She said one lesson she has learned from her relationship with Joey is that "you cannot change a person and run his life."

Sex appeal

She dismissed that one-and-a-half year that Joey had spent with Kris is nothing compared with the 12 years she had spent with him "through up and down, but mostly down."

"One-and-a-half year is nothing," she said.

She was able to bear Joey's alleged womanizing even while they were together because she had developed a callousness.

"I just didn't want to know about them as long as he came home to me," she said. "My husband has a strong sex appeal and a lot of women were after him."

She said Kris should have known that.

"But she must really love him," she added. "She went against her family and her upbringing. She really loves him. She even admitted that herself."

50 years of reporting news on TV

SHOW TIME

ABS-CBN pays tribute to the men, women and events that have shaped TV-viewing over the past five decades with two documentaries and one very special TV spoctacular in October.

On Sunday, Oct. 12, ABS-CBN's Integrated News and Current Affairs presents an all-encompassing look at TV news as seen through the eyes of ABS-CBN in "Sa Mata ng Balita: 50 Taon ng Pamamahayag sa Telebisyon."

On the following Sunday, Oct. 19, the production team Asianeye Productions presents "Limampung Taong Ligawan: The Pinoy TV Story," a look at the network's corporate history. And on Oct. 26, the network makes TV history by showing the biggest, brightest, most star-studded TV special, its 50th anniversary extravaganza at the PICC Plenary Hall.

"Sa Mata ng Balita" encapsulates some of the most unforgettable events of the last 50 years as captured by TV news. Tracing the evolution of TV news and current affairs, it honors the men and women who gathered and delivered the news, including Henry Halasan, Frankie Evangelista, Bong Lapira, Harry Gasser, Tina Monzon Palma, Angelo Castro Jr., Noli de Castro, Loren Legarda and Korina Sanchez.

"Sa Mata ng Balita" features rarely-seen original video footage of historic events as seen on TV through the efforts of the behind-the-scenes staff, including overall in charge of production Luchi Cruz-Valdez, executive producer/headwriter Angela Blardony-Ureta and director and cinematographer Dik Trofeo.

"Limampung Taong Ligawan: The Pinoy TV Story" is a celebration of Philippine TV history. It will feature classic TV footages, many of which have not been seen on TV after they aired.

Behind "Limampung Taong Ligawan" are some of the best talents in TV, advertising and film, including executive in charge of production Charo Santos-Concio, supervising producer Chit Guerrero, executive producer Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala, co-executive producer Veronica Alcaneses-Pantig and acclaimed director Jeffrey Jeturian.

Center for Pop concert

THE CENTER for Pop Music Philippines Inc. presented its coaching staff in its San Pedro, Laguna branch in a concert entitled "Out of This World" last Sept. 26 at the Expo Trade & Music Hall of the Festival Super Mall in Alabang.

The featured artists were coaches Frank Manara, Myla Bulandan-Castillo, branch manager Dedeth Aquino and Cherie de la Cueva.

Guest performer was TV and recording star Nikki Valdez.

"Out of This World" was directed and hosted by Butch Albarracin, Center for Pop Music Philippines founder and president. For details, call 869-6702 or 723-9373.

'Little Mermaid' performed in GenSan

"THE LITTLE Mermaid," with Girlie Sta. Maria Royeca as artistic director, was staged yesterday at the 7,000-seater Lagao Stadium in General Santos City.

The ballet featured choreography by Gregory Aaron and Nicolas Pacana, the American artistic directors of the Atlanta Festival Ballet of Georgia, USA.

Aaron and Pacana also did the choreography during the show's critically acclaimed debut in Davao City on Sept. 20-21, with Gina Luz Bringas Suelto as artistic director.

Royeca's 30-year-old Girlie S. Royeca School of Ballet presented the production of the classic ballet fairy tale.

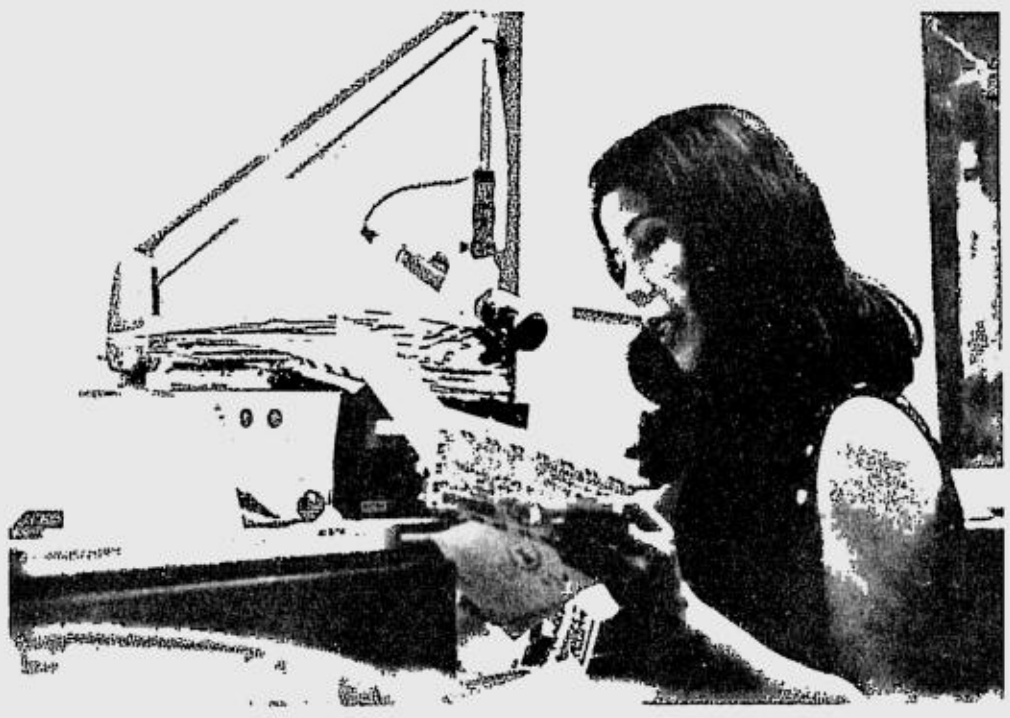
Aaron is the founding artistic director of the Atlanta Festival Ballet. As a performer, he was the Nutcracker prince for over 16 years. Pacana, a Cebu City native, is an internationally recognized premier danseur and ballet star. He danced the role of Colas in "Fille Malle Garde" with the Boston Ballet, performing before 63 million TV viewers in China after replacing the legendary Michael Barishnykov on only four hours' notice. Partnering with Maniya Barredo, the prima ballerina of the Atlanta Ballet, Pacana won critical acclaim and the tag the "Filipino Barishnykov."

In Saturday's show, Pacana performed the role of "Prince" and Aaron, "King Triton." The classic's music comes from the compilation of Aaron's classical repertoire.

From General Santos City, the show proceeds to Cagayan de Oro City where it will be mounted at the Capitol University Gymnasium on Oct. 4-5, with Ann-G Daque of Grace and Pointe as artistic director.

Goodbye, Inday

From page C1



RADIO DAYS and winning ways. Inday Badiday rules the airwaves (above) and wins a lifetime achievement award from the Famas.

"Minsan kasi parang, tama na! Hanggang diyan ka na lang. Wala nang limit *kasi. Ang nangyayari,* the more *na bulgar*, more probing, more vicious, the more *na gusto nila*."

When did she stop smoking?

"1996. The bypass operation did it. *Talagang ayoko na talaga. Sabi ko nga kay* (brother-in-law Dr. Carlitos Magsanoc), "(sister and INQUIRER editor in chief) Letty (Jimenez-Magsanoc) smokes, I smoke. She drinks, I drink. I sleep late, *mas lalo kung magpuyat si* Letty. *Mapag-isip ako, mas lalo si* Letty. *Pareho lang kami ng ginagawa. Pero bakit ako nagkakasakit, si* Letty *hindi*? Letty still smokes. *Grabe*!"

'I'm just me'

What's a good talk show to her?

"No script. Freewheeling. *Yung ang mga sagot ng mga artista hindi mag-uumpisa sa* 'Well . . .' or 'Actually . . .'"

Did she think she would regain her crown as queen of intrigues and talk shows?

"I'm not trying to regain anything. What crown are you talking about? *Sila lang naman ang nag-*name *sa akin ng* Queen of Intrigues. I don't pretend to have a title. I'm just me. I don't want to compete with any of them. I'm just here to join the parade, not to lead the parade."

Public service

What first things did she do as a host?

"*Ang dami-dami. Lahat ng kababalaghan! Nung namatay ang dalag, nakiburol kami. Diyos ko! Para akong luka-loka! May mga bulaklak pa kami. Ang tawag ko sa mga ganyan,* 'Aliw Awards.' *Kagaya nung bumubuhay ng patay, yung nagsasayaw na* Sto. Niño. *Lahat ng ipinaglihi sa kung saan.* You name it, I did it."

In her Christmas Day "Face to Face" column in 1999, Inday listed the "little and big monuments and milestones in my life." Among them were Nora Aunor and public service.

"Whether I like it or not," she wrote, "the superstar's name shall forever be a part of my life in show business. She has been the star to whom I hitched my wagon."

Of public service, she wrote: "There was a time when public service weren't watchable. But 'Eye to Eye' changed that. It makes me happy to say this show helped institutionalize the Filipino's innate gift of generosity. I've always been amazed by how the number of people needing help is always matched by the people willing to give it."

Her creations

What was she most proud of as a talk show host?

"Before, show biz reporters were taboo on the air. *Ipinaglaban ko 'yun*. My point was, they are the people who know what questions to ask the stars, who know what's happening.

"Many people did not like that idea, putting show biz reporters on the air. *At least ngayon tanggap na tanggap na sila.* "

Indeed, entertainment columnist Butch Francisco wrote in July 2000: "Before Inday Badiday, entertainment writers were mere by-lines in fan magazines and the movie pages of newspapers. But through the trailblazing efforts of this woman with a vision, some movie journalists have become personalities themselves, hosting their own show biz talk shows on TV."

Francisco proceeded to enumerate Inday's "creations"—Cristy Fermin, Aster Amoyo, Lolit Solis, Nap Gutierrez, and Francisco himself.

What was she like as a mother?

"Normal."

Writer Anselle Beluso, one of her closest friends: "*Depende kung sino'ng anak.*"

Inday: *Gaga*!

Should other hosts be afraid of her comeback?

"Why should they be? There's no reason to be afraid of me. I'm just one of them."

No more "Saranghameda?"

"It will just come. That was the time I met Bo (Gene Palomo), so *saranghameda*. The word is Korean for I love you. *Malay mo, baka may makilala ako sa* show *ko, e 'di iba naman* (laughs)."

Award-winning 'Huling Birhen' now on video

AFTER winning 10 awards in the Manila Film Festival only last June, "Huling Birhen sa Lupa," directed by Joel Lamangan, is now available on video and DVD.

When Martin (Jay Manalo), an ex-convict, assumes the identity of Father Eman in a small town, the people accept him. But he falls for Lorena (Ara Mina), the town prostitute, and reveals his true identity to her. Together they plan a scheme to win the people's faith and sell their "miracles." But Lorena's mentally disturbed sister Cion (Maui Taylor) witnesses an apparition of the Blessed Virgin, a real miracle that will challenge their faith and change their lives.

"Huling Birhen sa Lupa" features Maui's best performance to date, as well as standout turns by Ara Mina and Jay. It also received other major awards such as best picture and best director.

Exclusively distributed by Viva Video Inc., "Huling Birhen sa Lupa" is already available on VHS, VCD and DVD at Astrovision, Astroplus, Video City, Odyssey, SM record bars, SM Supermarket, SM Appliance, O Music, Music One, National Bookstore, Ever Department Stores, The Landmark, Tower Records and other Viva Video Outlets nationwide.

Zeta-Jones sues makeup firm

LOS ANGELES—Has a French makeup company smeared Catherine Zeta-Jones?

The actress filed a lawsuit Thursday in federal court that seeks $15 million from the cosmetics firm Caudalie for running an ad campaign that says the "Chicago" Oscar-winner "was spotted buying the complete Caudalie range of skincare" and had used the company's anti-aging spa in Las Vegas.

Her lawsuit states that she has never purchased such products, nor did she receive services from the spa, and claims the company had no right to use her name in promotions.

The star of "Entrapment" and the upcoming comedy "Intolerable Cruelty" has an exclusive deal to promote cosmetic products produced by Elizabeth Arden.

In her lawsuit, Zeta-Jones also named as defendants the retailer Neiman Marcus Group Inc., for spreading the promos on its Web site, and the Turnberry Place condominiums, the location of Caudalie's Las Vegas spa.

Earlier, Zeta-Jones and her husband, Michael Douglas, had sued a magazine for publishing photographs of their wedding. *AP*

Madonna book tops best seller list

SHOW STOPPER

NEW YORK—Madonna has another No. 1 hit, this time on the book charts.

The singer's children's story, "The English Roses," was published simultaneously around the world Sept. 15 and will top The New York Times' children's list for the Oct. 5 edition.

"It demonstrates once again that Madonna has an extraordinary gift for communicating with children of all ages," Nicholas Callaway, CEO of Callaway Arts & Entertainment, the book's US publisher, said in a statement Thursday.

According to Nielsen BookScan, which tracks sales in the United States, Madonna's book sold 57,369 copies in its first full week, ranking No. 5 overall. The top seller was Dr. Phil McGraw's "The Ultimate Weight Solution," with sales of 215,536. *AP*

Making the right choices

As they say "Moms know best". And what Moms definitely know is that value for money is very important these days.

This is not hard to understand considering what our economy is experiencing lately. This affects every household's budget such as that mom's would think twice, or maybe even thrice, before thay part with hard-earned money. No wonder that more and more alternative or price brand soaps detergents, shampoos, etc. are being introduced in the market.

But how about on food items? Does buying a more affordable brand already means getting the best value for money? Does taste quality play an important consideration? And if for the sake of argument it happens to taste good, don't you just wish there were more benefits you can get?

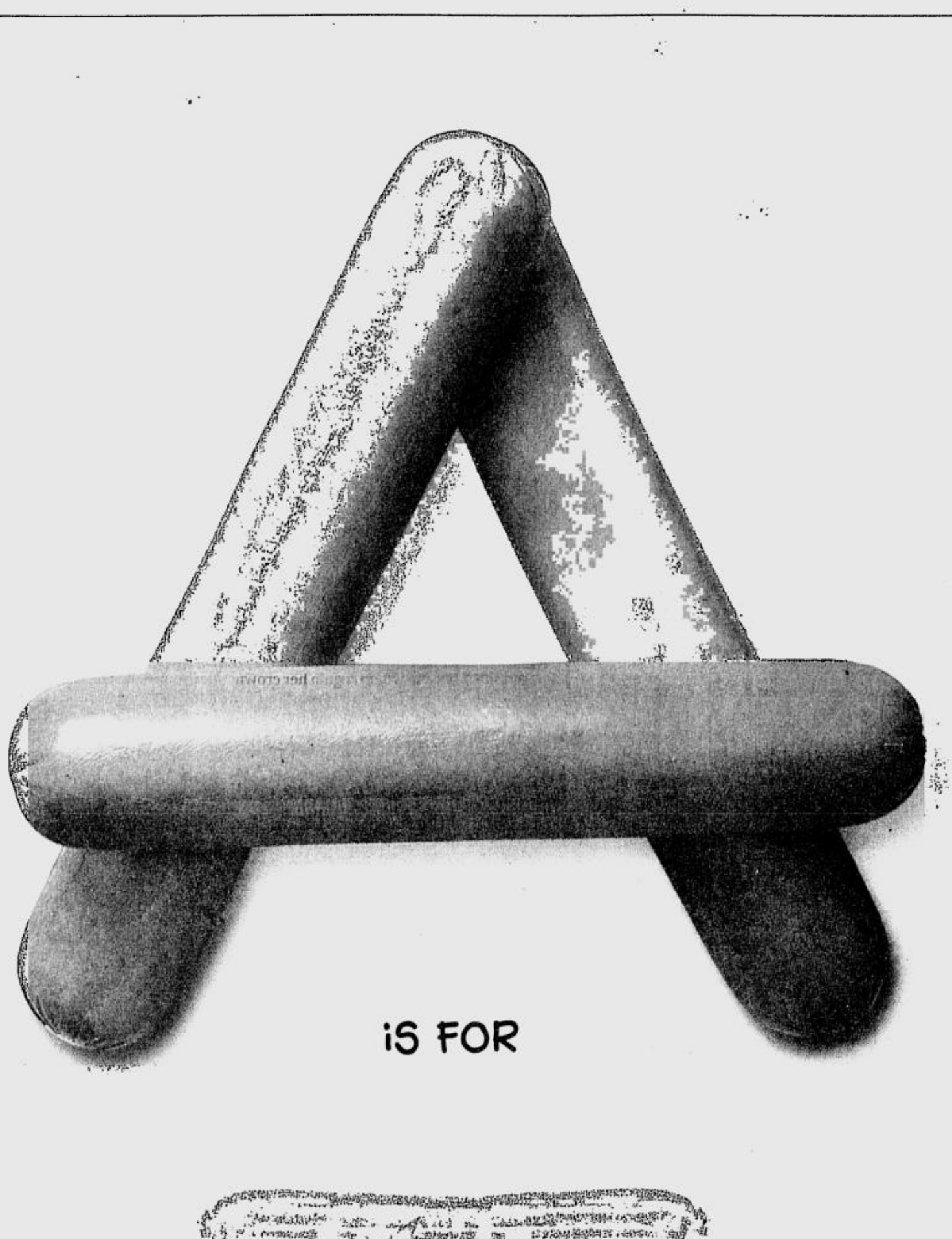
Good thing there is Purefoods Beefies Hotdog. Beefies Hotdog is a sure hit with kids because it looks good, and tastes good. Watch them glow in anticipation as the delicious sight of freshly cooked Beefies is laid on the dining table. Kids and other members of the family will definitely have an enjoyable time with Beefies whether as breakfast, snack or baon to school.

Moms will also love the fact that Beefies contains Vitamin A. Vitamin A promotes healthy eyes, which is very critical for growing kids. Every piece of Beefies Hotdog provides one-third of Recommended Dietary Allowance specification per day. Due to this, Beefies Hotdog has been awarded the DOH seal of "Sangkap Pinoy." The more kids enjoy Beefies Hotdog, the more health benefits they can get.

The wonder of Beefies Hotdog does not simply end there. Moms would surely find it a treat when they find out that Beefies Hotdog comes at a more affordable price. Purefoods Beefies Hotdog is sure to fit the family's budget.

Imagine all these -- a delicious tasting hotdog packed with Vitamin A at an affordable price. That's best value for money. That's Beefies Purefoods Hotdog.

ADVT.



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ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
Ali 2	1ST TIME
Ali 3	THE MEDALLION
Ali 4	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
Ali 5	FREDDY VS. JASON
Ali 6	BASIC
Ali 7	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE

ARANETA COLISEUM

SEPT 28	PBA: FED EX VS. ALASKA
SEPT 29	NCA 7-STAG DERBY
SEPT 30	UAAP: ADMU VS. DLSU
OCT 1	NCA 7-STAG DERBY
OCT 2	UAAP FINALS GAME 1

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ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	LIGAYA KATUMBAS AY BUHAY
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
B	LIGAYA KATUMBAS AY BUHAY
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA?
CINEMA-2	LIGAYA KATUMBAS ANG BUHAY
CINEMA-3	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BASIC
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	FIRST TIME
CINEMA-6	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
CINEMA-7	KALABIT
CINEMA-8	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	JASON VS FREDDY
CINEMA-12	MEDALLION
CINEMA-14	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
CINEMA-15	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
CINEMA-1	SWAT
CINEMA-2	MEDALLION
CINEMA-4	LEGALLY BLONDE

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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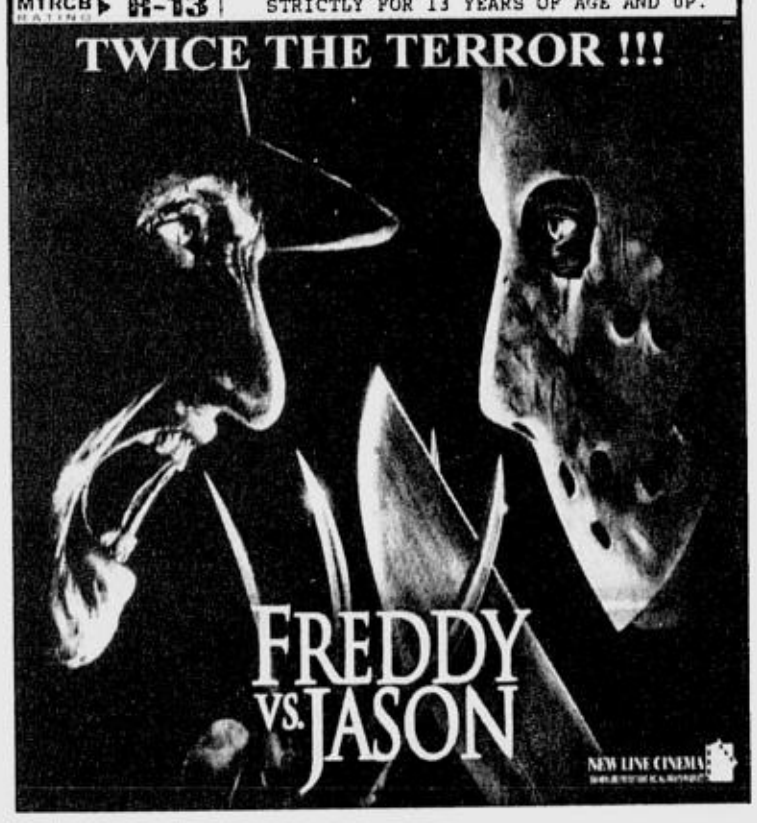

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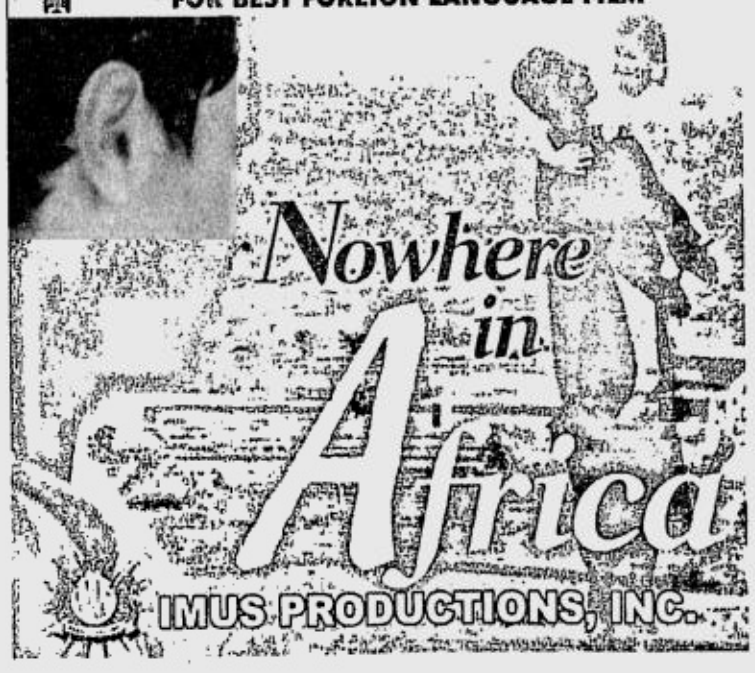

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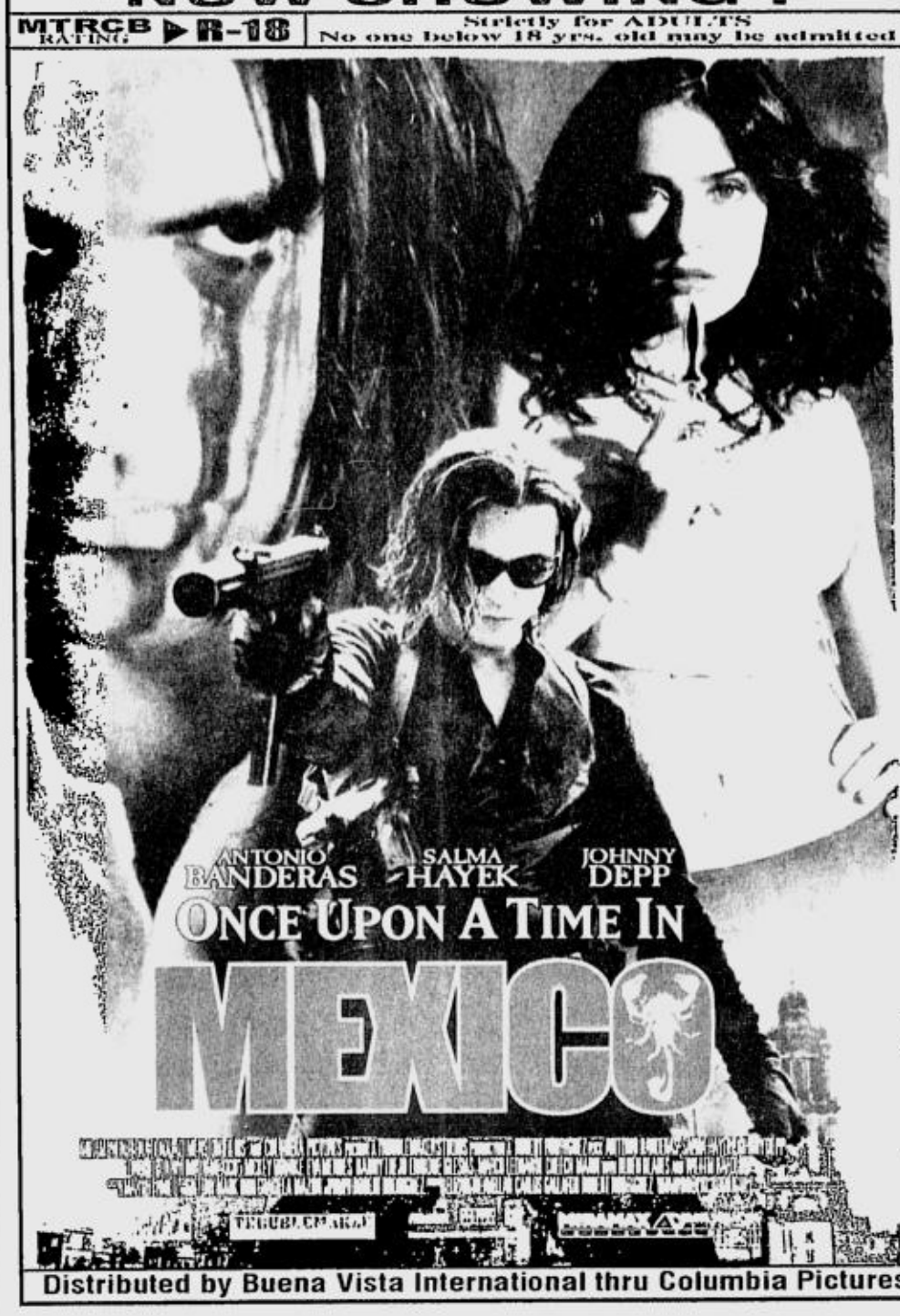

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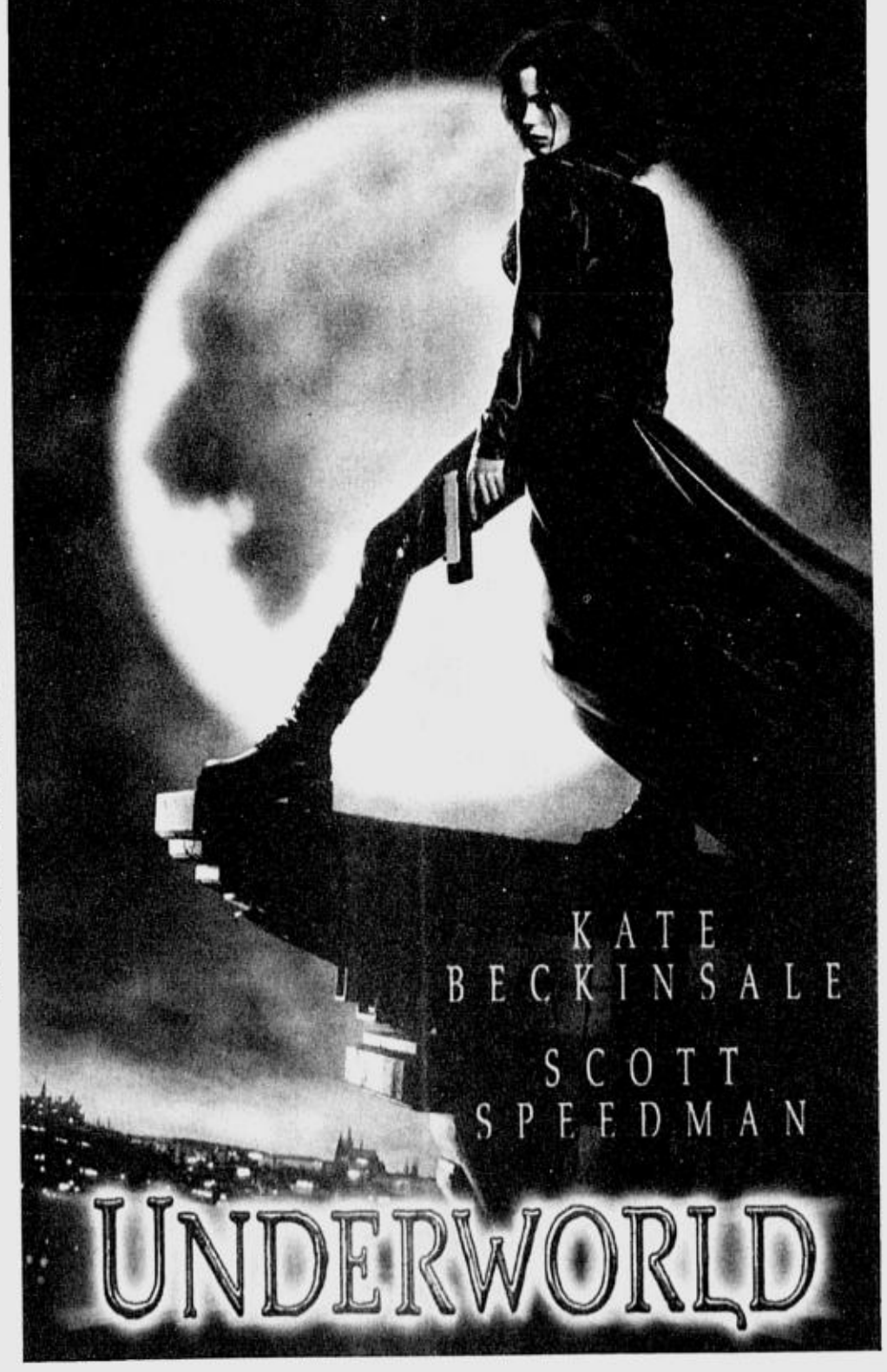

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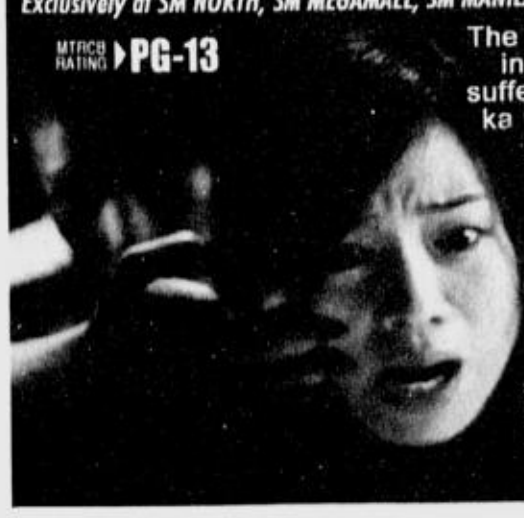

The award-winning lead star of this film has died recently in the same mysterious and terrifying circumstances suffered by the character he has portrayed... Ikaw, handa ka rin bang saniban para maniwalang totoo ang multo?

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DIRECTED BY LO CHI-LEUNG

KC Montero closer and closer to Heaven

By Marinel R. Cruz

KC MONTERO has been in show biz for almost four years, while his singer girlfriend Geneva Cruz has been in it for close to 13 years, "but I handle intrigues better than she does," he says.

That is why, he says, he would rather say nothing about his three-year relationship with Geneva. He has seen a lot of relationships fail "because people kept talking about it," he says.

KC and Gen met at a party in 2000, where actor Keempee de Leon introduced them to each other. They have been an item since, although they publicly admitted their relationship only last year.

"The tabloid press really digs into people's lives," said the Fil-Am MTV veejay and TV host. "If they know that a couple is together, they'll try to bring them apart by making up stories. Our relationship is really nobody else's business."

He adds, "It wasn't a very long courtship, just two or three weeks. We were on, but sssh. We talked and talked a lot. I spent a lot of time in her house, she spent a lot of time in my house."

KC said Gen was affected by the rumor that she went to the United States in 2001 to have an abortion. Gen really got hurt and cried a lot, "and she was not even pregnant," he said.

It was actually Gen's sister Aubrey who was expecting a baby at that time. Gen has a 7-year-old son, Heaven, with former Introvoys drummer Paco Arespacochaga.

Said KC, "I told Gen, 'don't listen. You know what's right, what the truth is.'"

Nowadays, KC is often seen playing surrogate dad to Heaven, like when Geneva went on a US tour with singer Rachel Alejandro late last year.

KC and Heaven are together in Monde's Tini Wini cookies campaign. "We encourage the kids to choose between strawberry sundae and orange plush to be the next Tini Wini cookie flavor," explains KC. "This has been going on for about two months now."

Today is the last day KC and Heaven will be going around the malls. They will be hosting "Tini Wini Victory Bash" at 2 p.m. at SM Megamall's Activity Center in Mandaluyong City.

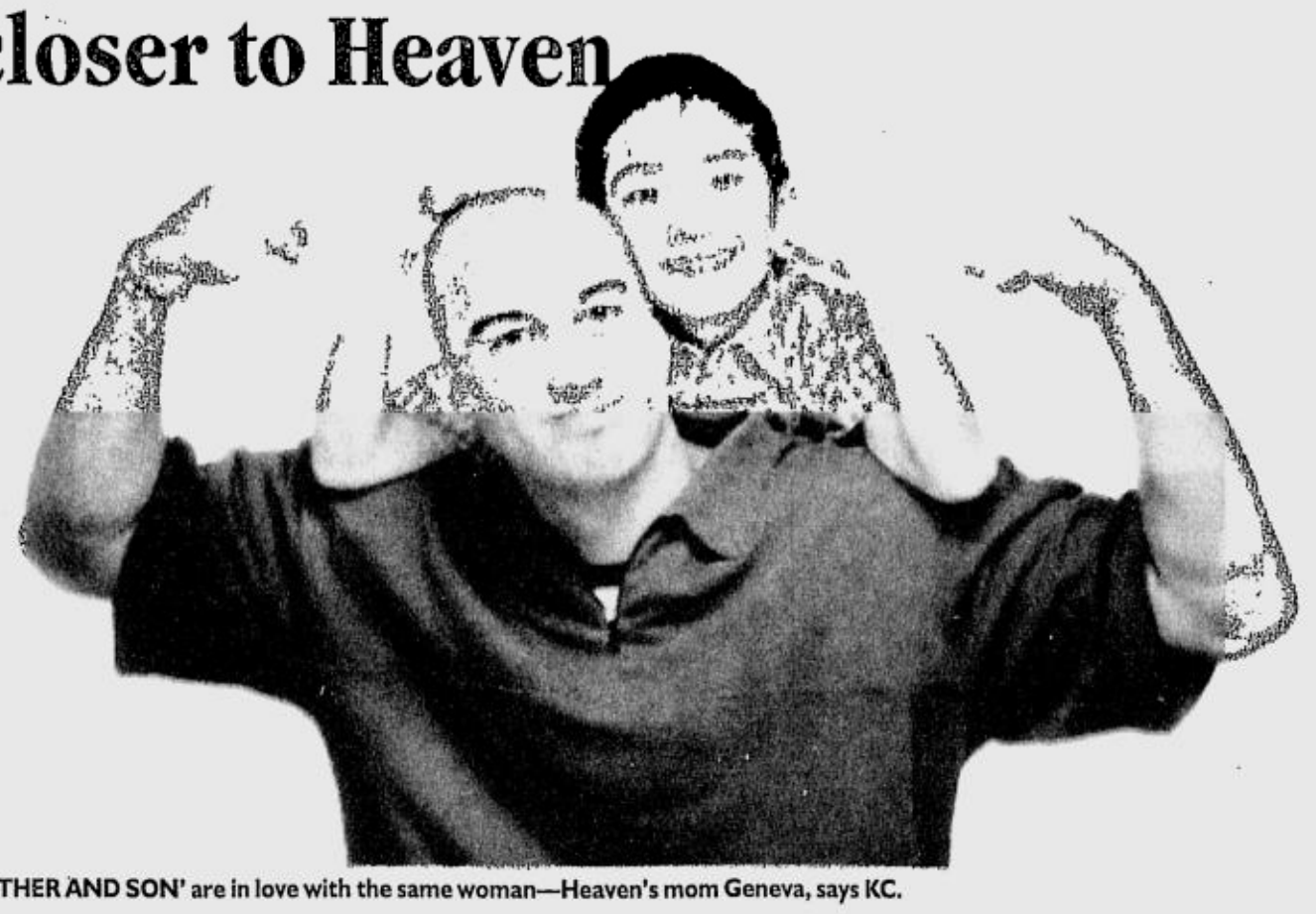
KC says he and Heaven fight over toys at home. Both like the Play Station a lot, the veejay says. "We also love the same girl, his mom."

He describes Heaven as a normal kid, "except that at 7 years old, he's already into girls. Heaven has two girlfriends. He took that after his dad, not after me."

He says Heaven is a good kid who doesn't disobey him. He wishes to live with the boy "in a house with a big yard so we can play."

"Where I grew up, I played in the dirt, played with water, and came home all muddy," says KC. "I think the kid should enjoy that."

Aside from his stint in MTV, KC also hosts the Sunday noontime show "SOP," with Regine Velasquez, Ogie Alcasid, Janno Gibbs, Lani Misalucha and Jaya.



'FATHER AND SON' are in love with the same woman—Heaven's mom Geneva, says KC.

"MTV and GMA 7 have basically made me what I am now," he says. "A lot of things have changed in just a couple of years. I can now afford to live in my own house and buy my own food."

KC and his brother Troy, came to the Philippines from Seattle in 1999. Since he and Belinda Panelo won the MTV VJ Hunt, he has been seen on MTV in segments like Jams, Lokal, Morning TV, Hanging Out and Be Seen on both cable and UHF channels.

KC says he wants to put together his own TV show. "It won't be in the day time, but at night," he says. "It'd be a combination of shows like Conan O'Brien's, 'Saturday Night Live' or 'Jackass.' It will be wild and fast-paced."

"Before MTV," he adds, "I was in a sitcom where I wasn't really doing much. I'm not really an actor. I'm a host, that's what I am."

Paolo Montalban performs in solo concert

PAOLO Montalban will be performing in his first solo concert on Oct. 3 and 4 at the Insular Life Auditorium at the Filinvest Corporate City.

Paolo is most known for playing Prince Charming in "Cinderella," which Disney produced as a TV-movie, as well as in its stage version. Both productions earned rave reviews.

Montalban started his acting career when he was cast in the Broadway revival of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "The King and I." He played a minor role until he became the understudy for the king, played by Lou Diamond Phillips, another Filipino-American actor.

Montalban starred as Kung Lao in "Mortal Kombat," the TV series.

He wowed critics with his performance in "American Adobo," directed by Laurice Guillen, where he played Raul, a callow, self-centered playboy.

Born in the Philippines, Montalban is one of two children. The Montalban family moved to America when Paolo was just a year old.

SHOW TIME

He grew up in a musical family. His father played the piano, two aunts studied the violin and piano at Julliard, and his mother was involved in theater while a student at St. Paul's College in Manila. Montalban himself learned how to play the piano, the violin and the saxophone.

In grade school, he won the lead role in his school's production of "Oliver!"

He finished a pre-med course at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. After graduation, he went straight to Broadway.

A New York agent signed up Montalban and soon got him his first professional job on a national tour with "Man of La Mancha."

Though he has started making a name for himself in American show biz, Paolo Montalban is very excited to come home and entertain his fellow Filipinos.

Tickets to his Filinvest show are available at Sarabia Optical branches at Alabang Town center, Greenbelt and Glorietta 4.

Actress **Cherie Gil** watched the concert of **Lea Salonga**, "Songs from Home," at the PICC two Saturdays ago with her husband, international violinist **Roni Rogoff**, dispeling rumors that they were now separated. The couple sat on the front row after arriving at the venue with actress **Dina Bonnevie** and her foreigner date. Also in the audience that night were singer-composer **Jose Mari Chan** and his wife **Maryann**, pop diva **Kuh Ledesma**, actress **Cherry Pie Picache**, **Franco Laurel** and wife **Ayen Munji-Laurel**, **Charo Santos-Concio** and other executives of ABS-CBN, as well as the big bosses of BMG Records Pilipinas, where Lea is a recording star.

DID YOU KNOW...

ENTERTAINMENT

Alma: I feel for Kris but I won't put Joey down

By Nini Valera

IN THE 12 years that Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez and actress Alma Moreno were together as husband and wife, he had never pointed a gun at her.

"Twelve years *kaming nagsama, at* never *niya ako tinutukan ng baril* (We were together 12 years and not once did he point a gun at me)," Alma told INQUIRER Entertainment in an interview last Thursday.

"Even with Vandolph (her son with comedian Dolphy), Joey wouldn't let him play with toy guns," she said.The marriage of Joey and Alma is now in the final stages of annulment.

Alma, 42, said she was surprised when she saw Kris Aquino on TV last Wednesday accusing Joey of cocking a gun and pointing it at her last Monday night during a violent fight in his condo unit at the Essensa in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

Still, the actress admitted that only Joey and Kris really knew what happened that night.

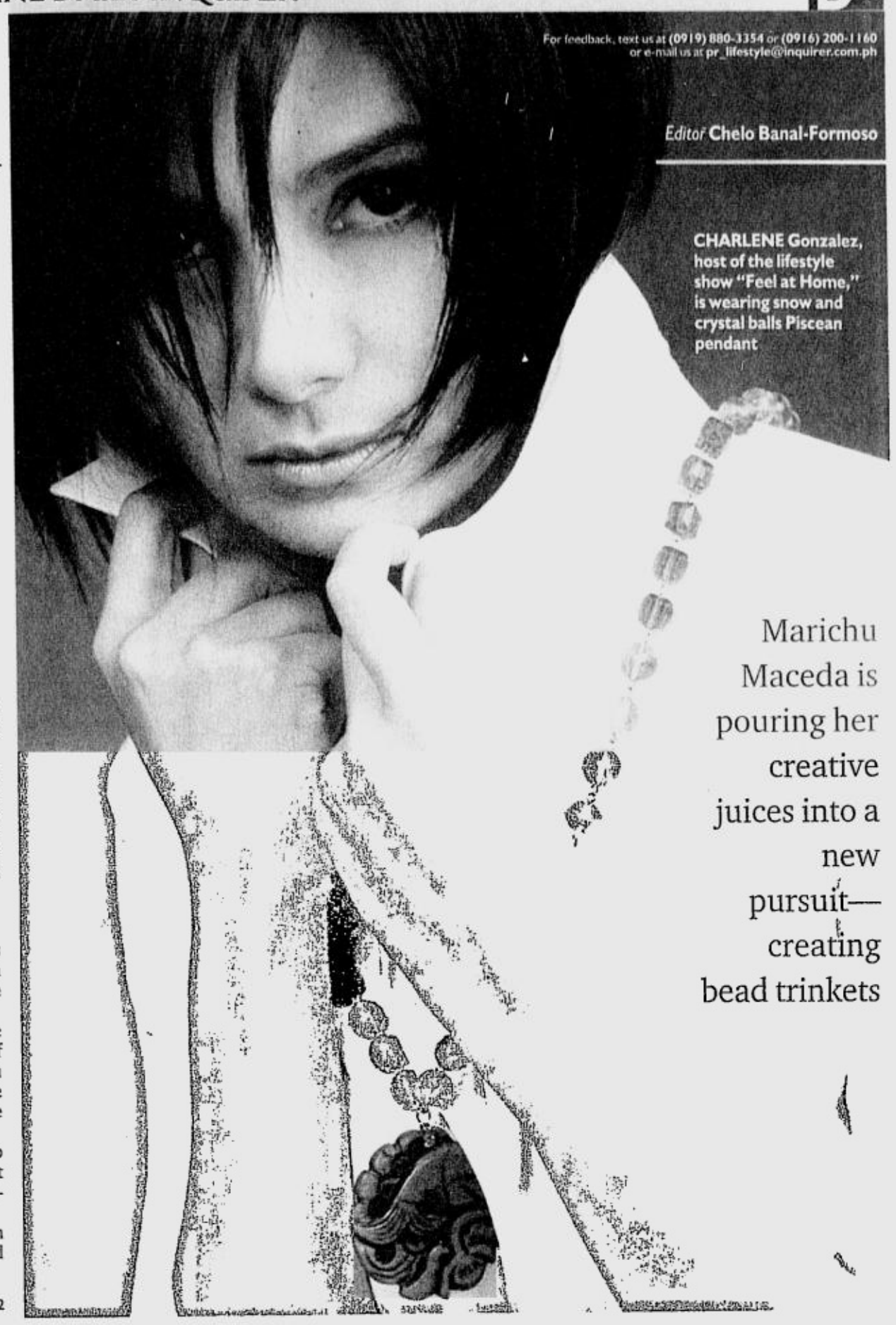
But she claimed that only the bodyguards of Joey carried guns, adding that she has never seen her husband with a grey gun with a long nozzle and magazine, which was how Kris had described the gun he allegedly pointed at her.

ALMA/ C2

"JOEY loved Kris," says Alma. ROGER MARGALLO

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Cinematic gems and smash beads



CHARLENE Gonzalez, host of the lifestyle show "Feel at Home," is wearing snow and crystal balls Piscean pendant

For feedback, text us at (0919) 880-3354 or (0916) 200-1160
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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Marichu Maceda is pouring her creative juices into a new pursuit—creating bead trinkets

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

EVEN before she became a politician's wife and a full-fledged movie producer, Marichu Vera-Perez Maceda had always been drawn to the arts. She was, for instance, the costume designer for the family-owned Sampaguita Pictures.

Thus, it came as no surprise to friends and family when Maceda, known in show-biz circles as Manay Ichu, began stringing together beads of various make, colors and sizes into eye-catching necklaces and lariats five months ago.

"I used to design most of the gowns Susan Roces wore in her films," she says. "That was in the mid-60s, when I regularly went to Divisoria to buy fabrics. I later moved into production design."

These days, Manay Ichu and Girl Friday Cita Baliat frequent Greenhills and Quiapo in search of materials. Once an artist, always an artist. It took her less than a day to learn how to make costume jewelry from good friend Angie Jose.

"Angie's pieces caught my eye one day," she says. "After she taught me the basics, I started buying materials the next day. Two days later, I was working on my first pieces."

She began working on simple beads before eventually tackling more complicated pieces made of seed pearls, corals, rhinestone, porcelain and Swarovski crystals strung together with so-called rosary chain. She has not given up the less complicated pieces using nylon string.

Painstaking

Her trinkets are among the featured items today at the Hotel Inter-Continental in Makati. Graduates of the Assumption College have organized the one-day bazaar.

"Using the rosary chain involves cutting the wire and making uniform loops," she says of the painstaking process, while showing us a pair of small pliers and other tools of the trade. "I trained Cita to make the loops since my eyesight is no longer as sharp as before."

Together, they can finish at least three to four pieces a day, depending on how difficult the design is, and, of course, what mood Manay Ichu is in.

Believe it or not, she can still afford to turn on the television, glancing at it every now and then, while working on her creations.

CINEMATIC/ D2

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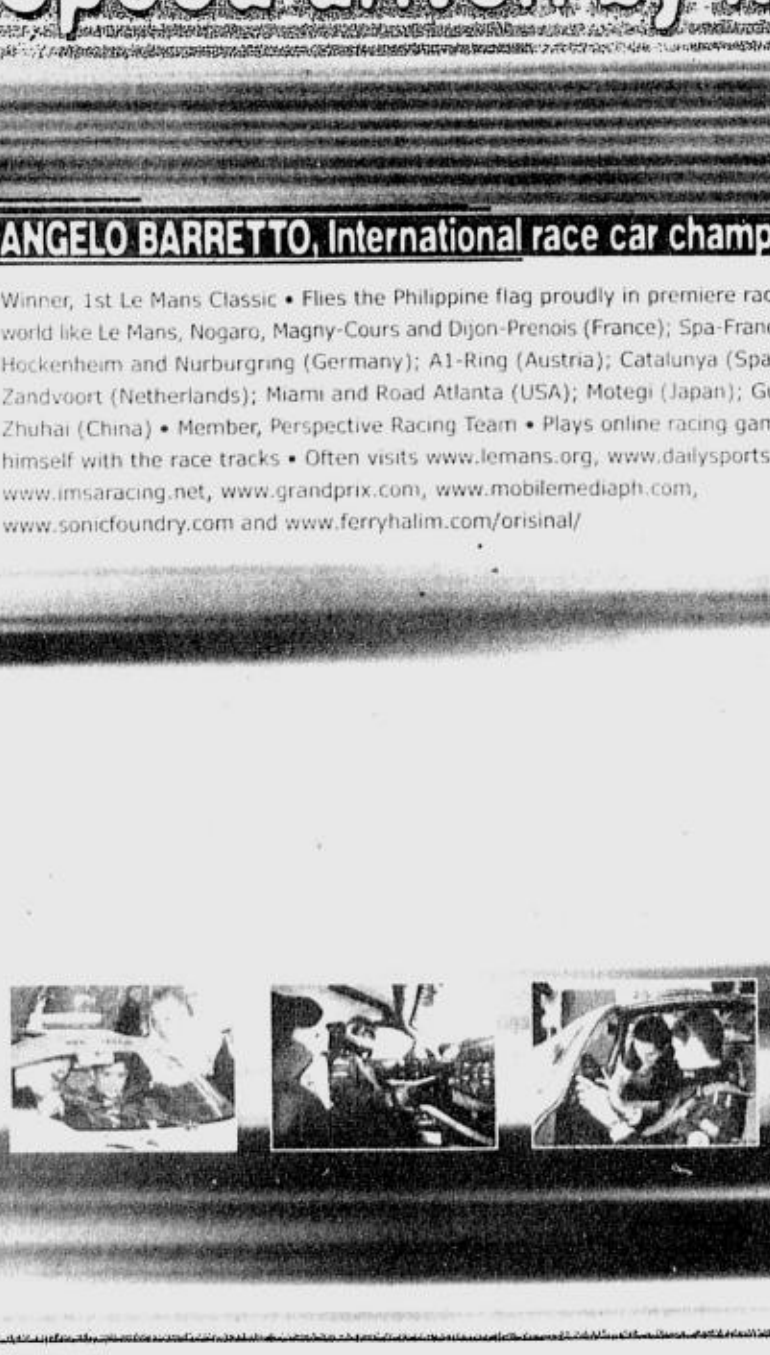

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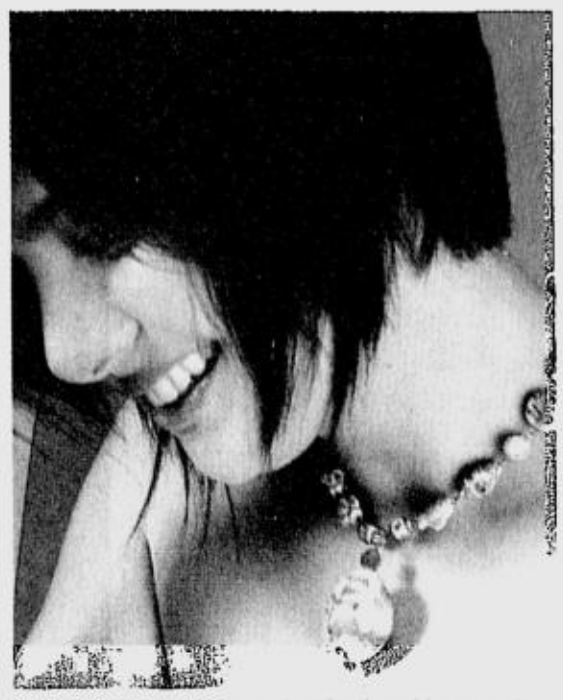
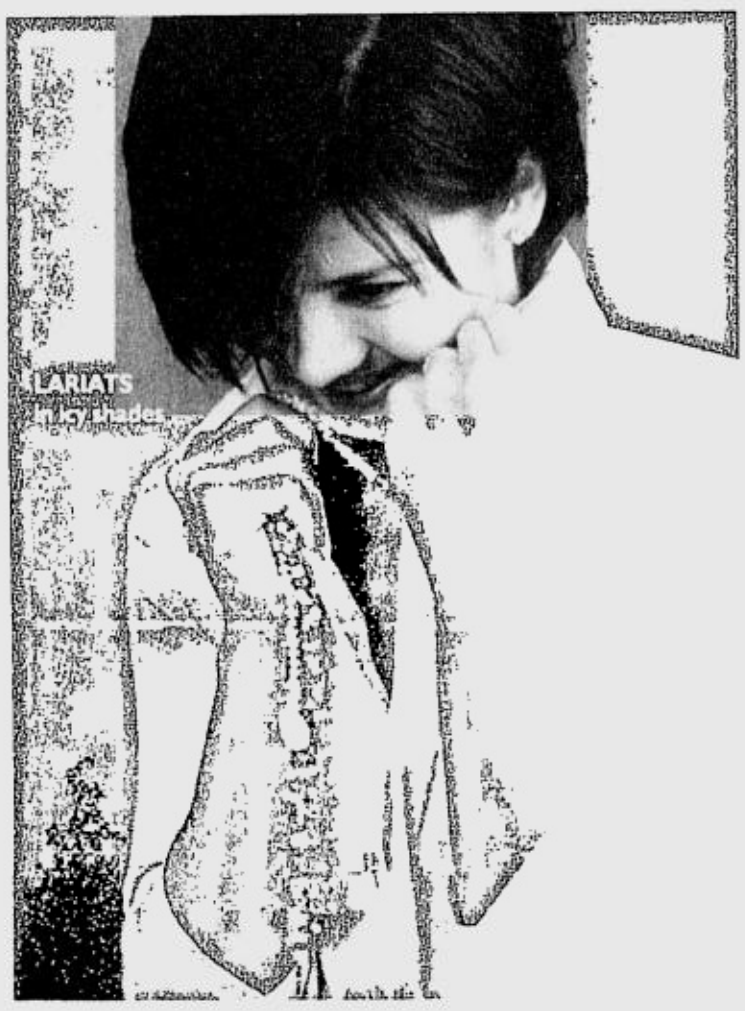


BLUE and white Chinese-inspired necklace made of ceramics

SWAROVSKI crystals of three lengths and colors

Cinematic gems and smashing beads



From page D1

Like a typical artist, Manay Ichu loves to improvise or derive inspiration from nature, particularly flowers, to come up with "absurd" color combinations. Oddly enough, she's oblivious to current trends in fashion.

"I don't even know the names of some of the stones and materials that go into my pieces," she confesses. "I'm really a conservative person. It's only through my art that I go all out."

Therapeutic

Not only has Manay Ichu found a new outlet for expressing herself, she also considers making costume jewelry—despite being difficult and time-consuming—therapeutic. Aside from family members and close friends, she has found solace in her beads every time she's faced with life's problems.

There was a time when Manay Ichu's interest in art had to take a back seat to more mundane concerns. Her priorities changed, however, soon after she became a full-fledged grandmother 14 years ago. She's now a proud *lola* to 10 grandchildren.

"I started to be at peace with the world again," she says, referring to that particular chapter in her life. "I began to refocus my time and energy to more creative pursuits."

Speaking of family members, one of Manay Ichu's first customers is sister Gina de Venecia, wife of Speaker Jose de Venecia, who proved to be an ideal endorser of her elder sister's merchandise.

"Soon after Gina began wearing my lariats," says an amused Manay Ichu, "her friends started ordering from me. She pays, but she always ends up as the one pegging the price."

Surely, the satisfaction Manay Ichu derives from selling her wares is far from financial. She prices her pieces based, of course, on the materials used and how much time and difficulty it took her to piece them together.

"What gives me the greatest satisfaction is when I see somebody wearing something I created," she says. "Especially, if she wears it with pleasure, pride and a certain kind of flair."

For details on Manay Ichu's bead jewelry, you can call 0918-9220697 or 0919-5574880.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

MODEL:
CHARLENE GONZALEZ
HAIR:
LEO PRIAGOLA (0916-9851132)
MAKEUP:
LAWRENCE LEUTERIO (4127092)

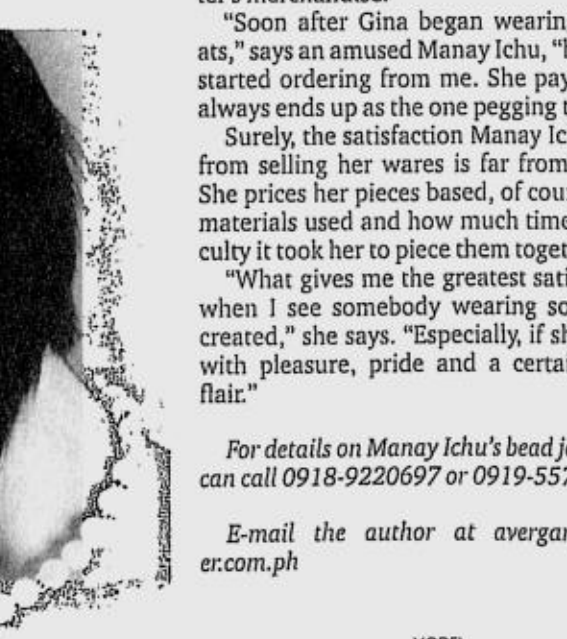
FIVE-STRAND emerald and clear Swarovski crystals

PINK quartz with heart-shaped pendant

FIVE-STRAND gray and clear Swarovski crystals

CLOISONNE with baby pink and mint green beads

MURANO beads in various shades of electric blue



CAT'S eye with with pink, gray and black chips

RED corals with flat, Chinese-inspired pendant

LARIATS in warm shades

One-of-a-kind bazaar features flea market

IN A metropolis that's overcrowded with bazaars and *tiangges* from end to end, MenchieMabantaBazaars@ Global City, ongoing until Oct. 31 at MC Home Depot, Fort Bonifacio, is like a whiff of fresh air for jaded shoppers who have "been there, done that" in terms of bargain-hunting. The bazaar offers a weekend flea market and many others. Mabanta's plan is to expand this flea market by inviting collectors and dealers to join the bazaar and sell their wares. Call 4371009, 4389974, 6479059 and 0917-5264812, or 8154721 for MC Home Depot.

GOINGS ON

CONTEST. Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall and The Brick Road will hold the Monster's World Costume Contest on Oct. 25. Registration is ongoing until Oct. 19. Get an entry form at the mall's customer service booth or the Ad & Promo department. Attach a P300 single or accumulated purchase receipt dated Sept. 1-Oct. 19 from any store within the mall. Kids can take part in the Grand Trick or Treat at the Mall on Oct. 30. Call 6815401 local 109.

MUSICAL PLAY. De La Salle Santiago Zobel School celebrates its silver jubilee with a musical play entitled "Bilangguang Walang Rehas." It will be staged on Sept. 29 and 30 and Oct. 10 and 13 at Sylvia P. Lina Theater, Center for Performing Arts. The play will feature the inmates of New Bilibid Prisons of Muntinlupa.

MEDITATION COURSE. A Vipassana meditation course will be held on Oct. 15-26 at Sico Farm in Dasmariñas, Cavite. Call Sr. Angelita Walker at 0920-5530602 or e-mail angelrscj@yahoo.com.

TRADE SHOW. Designbuild 2003, a design and building trade show, is ongoing until today at The PICC Forum, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

PROGRAM. The Japan Foundation Program Guidelines for 2004-2005, covering the period April 2004-March 2005, is now available. Copies may be requested until Nov. 14. E-mail e-mail@jfmo.org.ph or fax 8116153.

FESTIVAL. Bharati, an Indian women's club, will celebrate Diwali-The Festival of Lights with a ball at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 11, at Intercontinental Hotel. Call Sheetal Potdar at 8106289; Sherina Dowlani, 8519890; Deepanjali D Pandey, 8185990; Ameena Jung, 6330381; Dimpi Singh, 7515267; and Rini Bose, 6870866.

HOMECOMING. De La Salle Santiago Zobel School's Guidance Center will mark its 25th year with a homecoming on Oct. 3, 4-7 p.m. at the school's Debbie Decena Auditorium.

PHOTO EXHIBIT. The Davidoff Echo photo exhibit is ongoing until Sept. 30 at Rustan's fragrance floor in Edsa Shangri-La Mall. The exhibit features the works of Raul Teehankee, Xander Angeles, Amiel Cabanlig and Pepper Teehankee.

EXHIBIT. Ugat Lahi will open Daluyong Anakpawis, Pagdiriwang at Pakikiisa sa Sentenaryo ng Kilusang Paggawa exhibit on Oct. 4 at Pasig City Museum. It will travel to different schools, galleries and communities. The exhibit focuses on the life and struggle of Filipino workers.

Bridal and debutante fair a success

SOON-TO-WED couples and debutantes alike had a great treat at the recent bridal and debutante's fair "A Walk to Remember: The Wedding Fairy Tale," held at the Megatrade Hall 1 of the SM Megamall.

The fair used innovative exhibit zoning, a first in fairs and exhibits. The zones, occupied by more than 70 exhibitors, progressed seamlessly from the beauty and skin care and hair and makeup areas to jewelry shops, printing services, wedding planners, florists, bridal transport services, shoes and other wedding accessories, video and photography, caterers and reception venues, cakes, entertainment, souvenirs and honeymoon destinations.

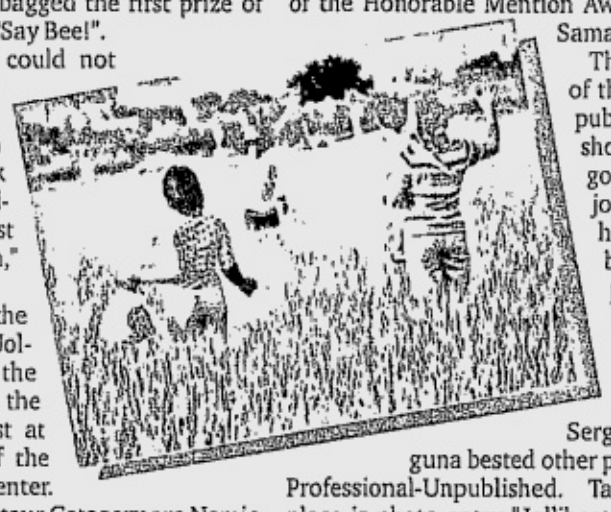
The event's highlight was the bride and debutante fashion show participated in by top designers Danilo Franco, Barge Ramos, Fanny Serrano, Larry Espinosa, Eddie Baddeo, Nono Palmos, Jojie Lloren, Avel Bacudio, Paul Cabral, Arielle Agasang, Shanon Pamaog, Totoy Madriaga and Renee Salud.

Honeymoon packages, special discounts and raffle prizes were given away to early bookers.

Jollibee Awards Winners of the Say Bee! Photo Contest

A profound deaf from Cebu City is blessed with a top prize award in the recently concluded "Say Bee!" Photo Contest of Jollibee. Alnoe Paler, who just turned 35 years old this September 16, is very excited when he learned that his entry entitled "Deliciously Fascinating" bagged the first prize of the Amateur Category of "Say Bee!".

His mother, Josefina, could not contain the happiness she felt when she learned of his son's success. "I am so proud of him. I thank Jollibee that an opportunity like this photo contest was provided to my son," Mrs. Paler remarked.



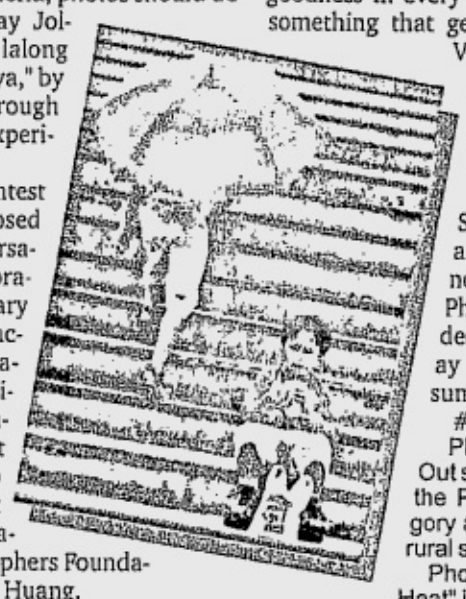
Alnoe is just one of the many winners which Jollibee is honoring during the Awarding Ceremony of the "Say Bee!" Photo Contest at the Glorietta 2 lobby of the Glorietta Mall in Ayala Center.

Trailing Alnoe in the Amateur Category are Nemie Florendo, second place, for her "Huli Ang Kiliti ni Lola" and Ronald Delima, third place, for his "Pasalubong ni Daddy."

The Professional Category was split into two sub-categories: the Published and the Unpublished. The panel of judges awarded three Honorable Mentions to the top winners of the Professional-Published Category. Guijo Duenas of Iloilo City grabbed two of these Honorable Mention Awards. Philippine Star's Edd Gumban is another recipient of the Honorable Mention Award for his "Sama-Samang Sarap" entry.

The first prizewinner of the Professional-Unpublished category showed that Jollibee goodness can be enjoyed anywhere as he featured a family bringing Jollibee pasalubong to a father working in the farm. With an entry of "Lunch Out sa Bukid," Dewey Sergio of San Pedro, Laguna bested other photo entries for the Professional-Unpublished. Taking the second place is photo entry "Jollibeat the Heat" of Jesse Narrazo who comes from Bacolod City. A photo of kids making a street painting of Jollibee's face earned the judges' nod for third place in this category. This is the entry of Samuel De Leon entitled "Kapag Sama Sama, Masarap at Masaya."

Entries were judged according to Visual Impact which constitutes 20%, Technical Merit, Artisty or Composition for 30% and Relevance to the theme which is 50%. With this criteria, photos should depict the theme "Basta may Jollibee, buhay ay lalong sumasarap, lalong sumasaya," by showing happiness through their Buhay Jollibee experiences.



"Say Bee!" Photo Contest panel of judges was composed of known personalities: versatile neo-artist Francis Abraham, advertising luminary Emily Abrera, seasoned actor-director Johnny Delgado, acclaimed director Carlitos Siguion-Reyna, international photojournalist Romy Gacad, Camera Club of the Philippines President Norlito Quimel, and Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation (FPPF) Chair Eduviges Huang.

"The 'Say Bee!' Photo Contest is Jollibee's way of recognizing Filipino photographers. Truly, this is a showcase of Filipino talents which we can be proud of. Apart from this, Jollibee wishes to convey its message of hope through our "Buhay Jollibee" campaign. Through these photos we hope that many people would be inspired to find the goodness in every moment and to look at life as something that gets better and better," Jollibee Vice President Inez Reyes shared.

Jollibee invites everyone to view these photos at the Glorietta 2 lobby. The exhibit will be open to the public from September 26 to 28, 2003. Enjoy a weekend full of fun and happiness as you catch the "Say Bee!" Photo Exhibit and feel that indeed, "basta may Jollibee, buhay ay lalong sumasarap, lalong sumasaya."

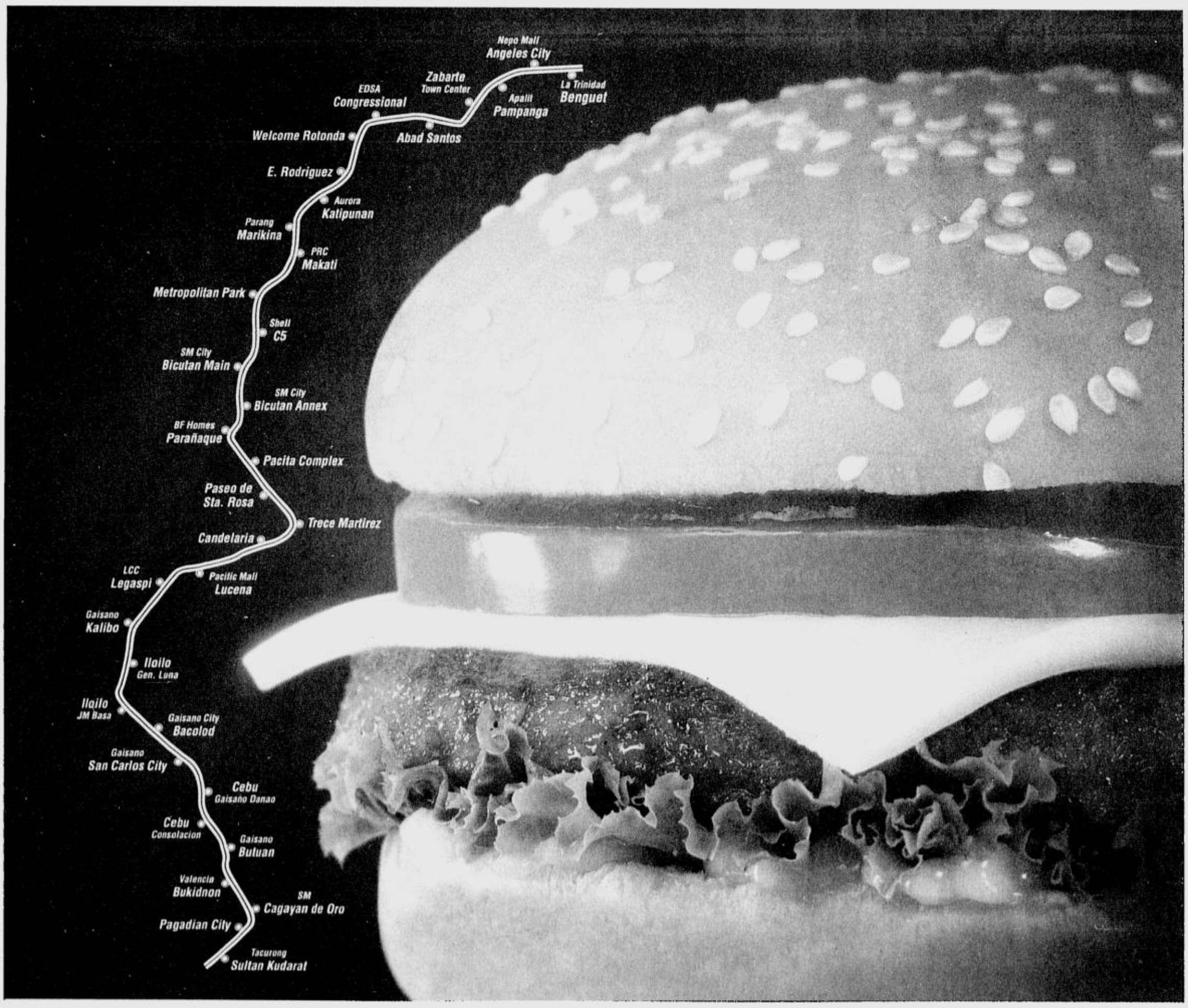
# # #

Photo of 1st prize: This "Lunch Out sa Bukid" earned the first prize in the Professional-Unpublished Category as it depicts family bonding in a rural setting.

Photo of 2nd prize: "Jollibeat the Heat" is the winning photo of 2nd placer Jesse Narrazo

Photo of 3rd prize: A smiling Jollibee on the road is drawn by these kids in this 3rd prize winning entry of the Professional-Unpublished Category.

ADVT.



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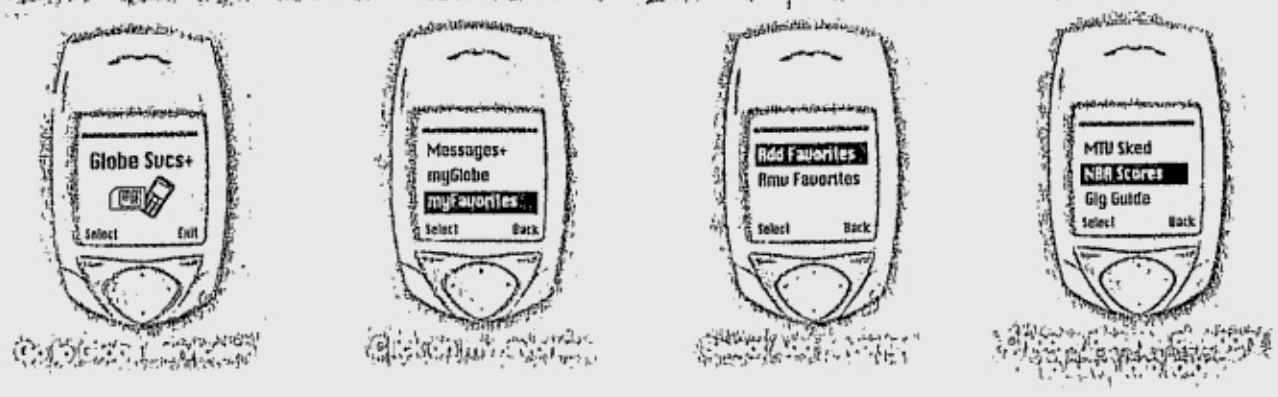

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

So many reasons to Smile

INQUIRER lensman Edwin Bacasmas' photo "Ninoy Swatching Over You" gets special Gifts Gate award from China Cojuangco in the Gift Gate-Fujifilm Why Smile? photo contest.

IT was a weekend of fun and fulfilled wishes at the Glorietta Activity Center where more than 1,500 entries in Gift Gate's Why Smile? photo contest were displayed.

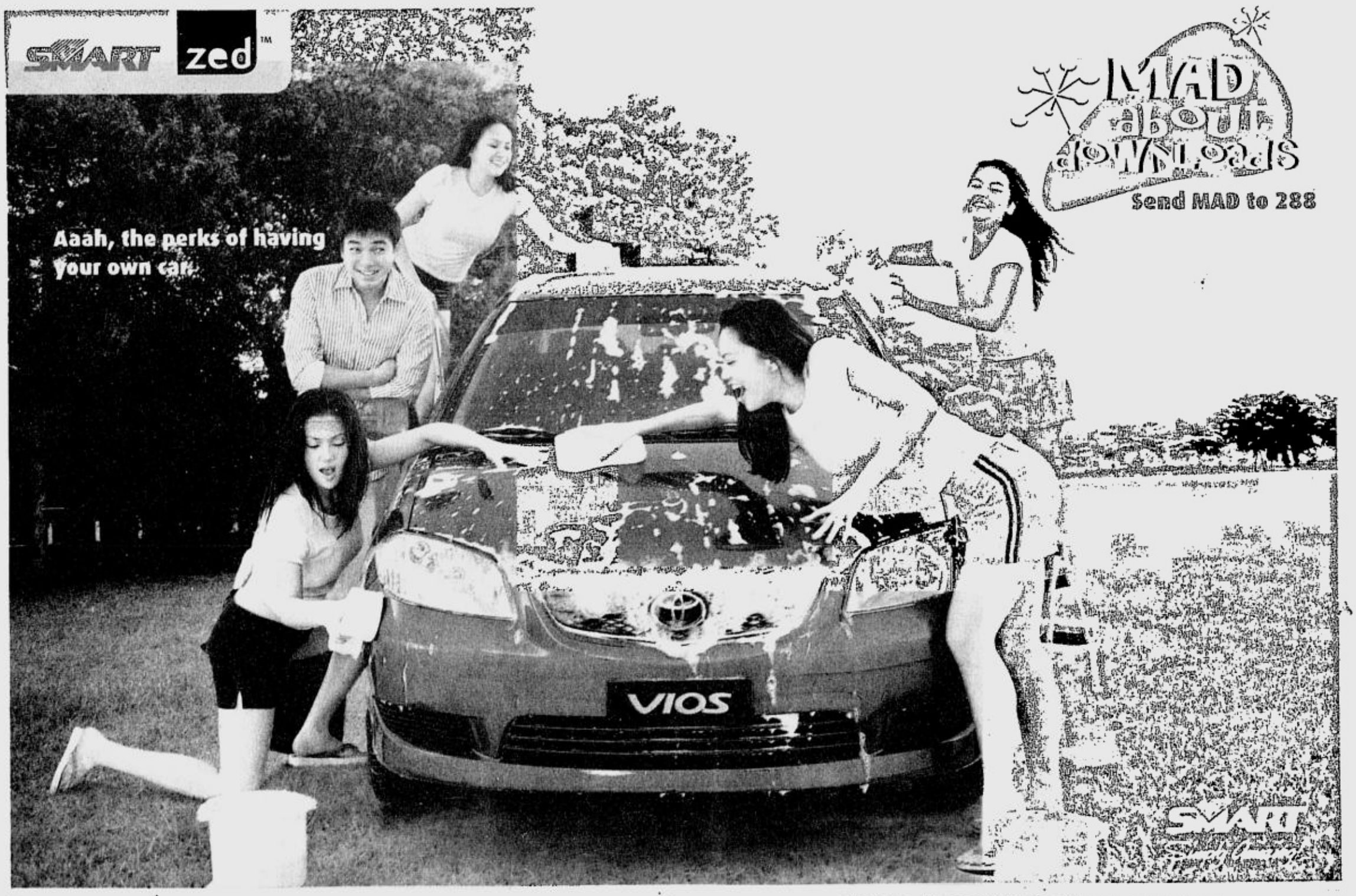
The exhibit stretched from the heart of the Glorietta Activity Center all the way to the Makati mall and the Glorietta 2 atrium.

Guests enjoyed a number of exciting treats, among them the chance to buy Swatch watches at 1983 prices, get free Yakisoba and Red Iced Tea from Tokyo Tokyo for voting for their favorite photo at the Why Smile? show, avail of discounts at Gift Gate, and join in the raffling off of Swatches and cell phones.

And for every P300 purchase at Gift Gate,

SO/ E2

GIFT Gate's Virgie Ramos with Judy Ann Tenorio, whose wish for a VCD component came true courtesy of Irene Martel Francisco



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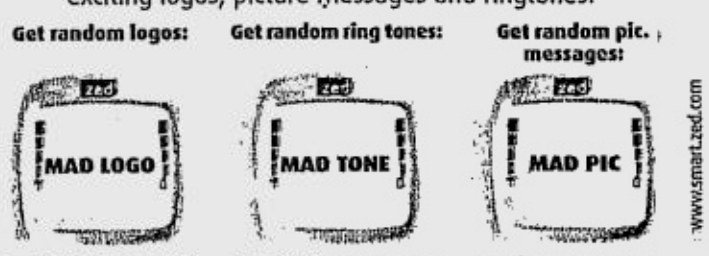

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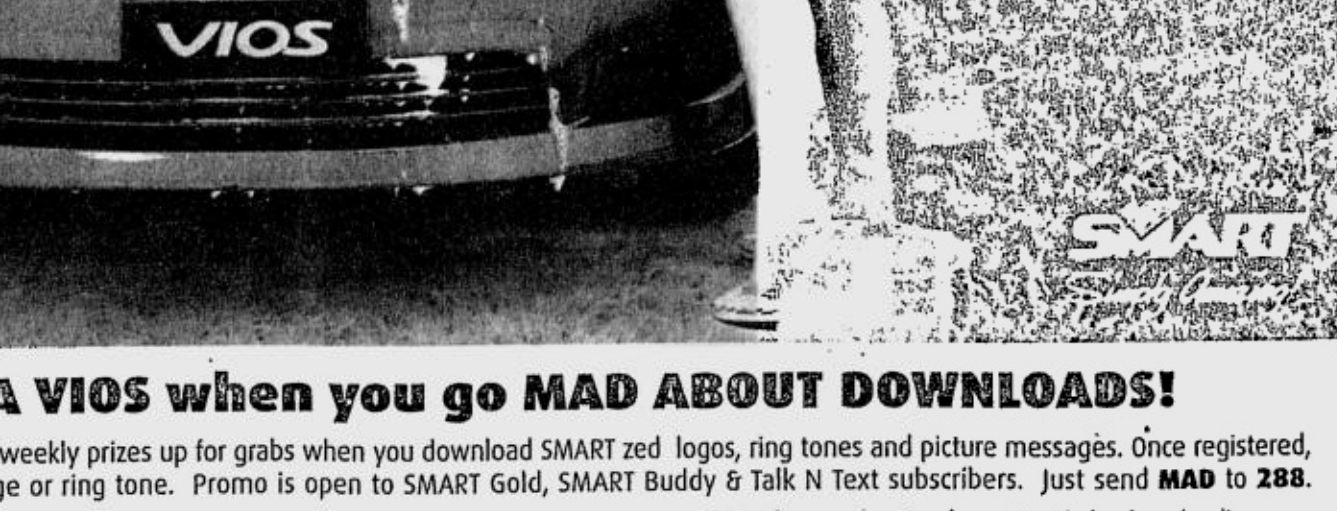
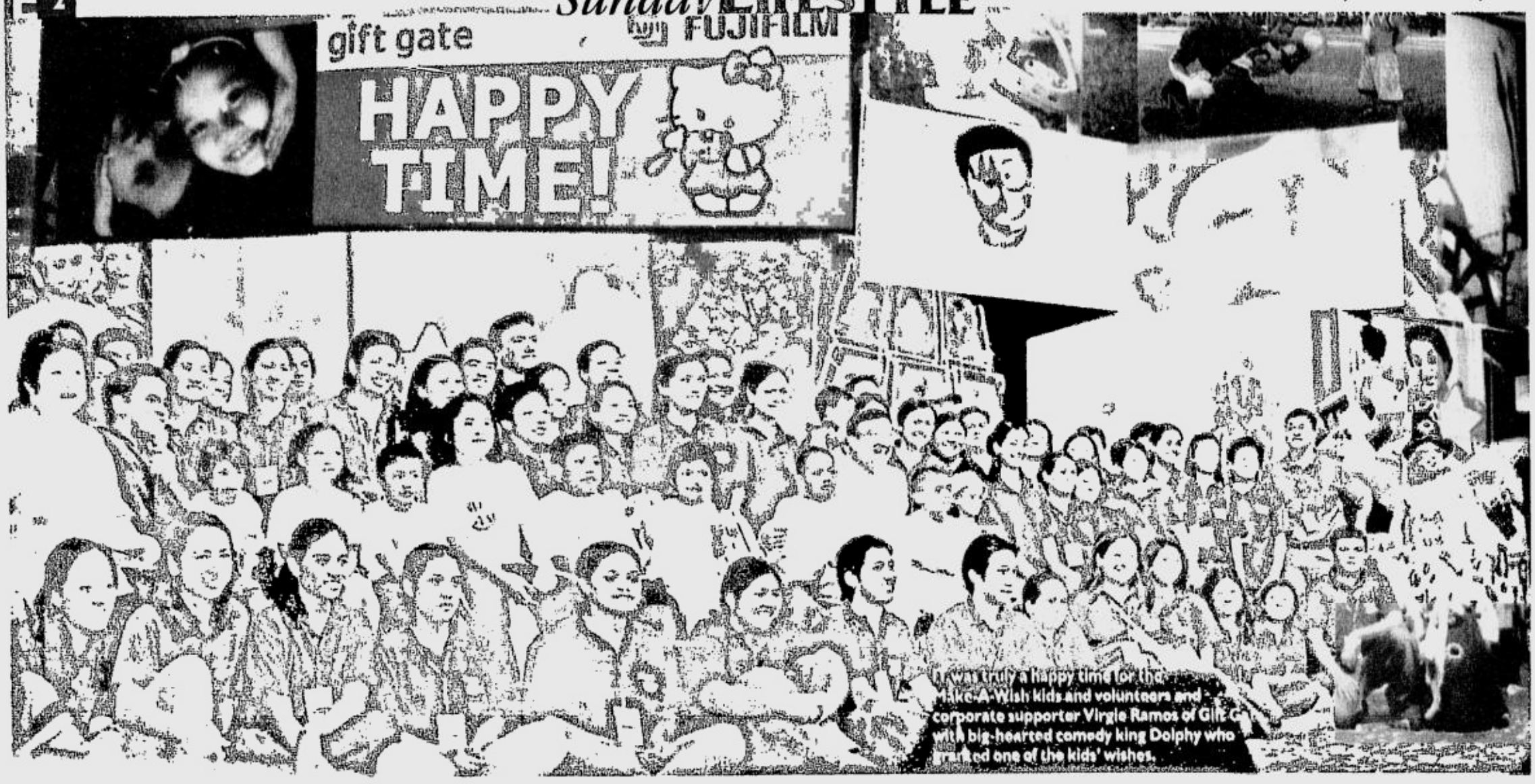


Offered pics may vary in different outlets.

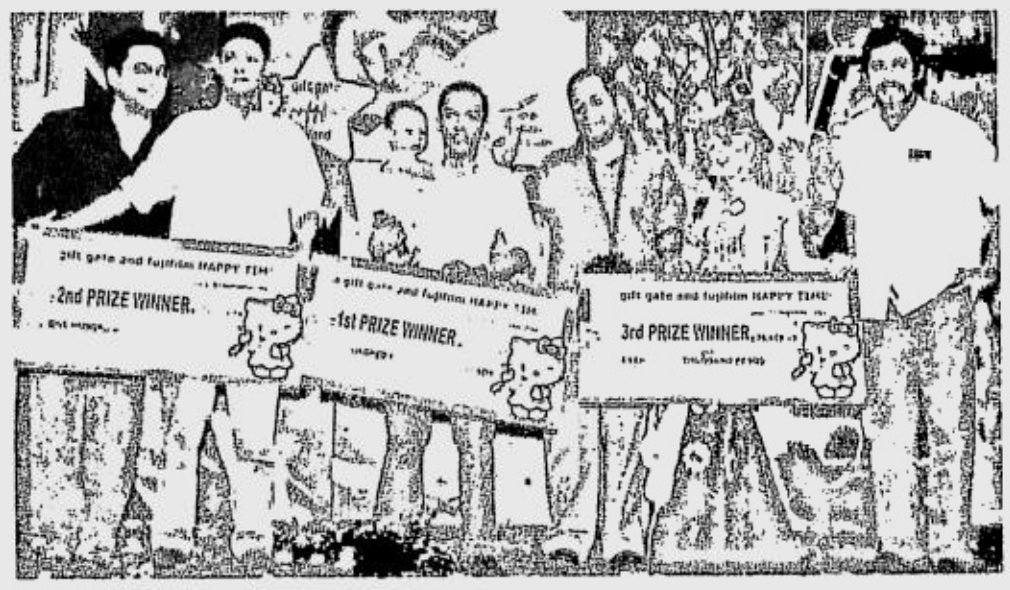


It was truly a happy time for the Make-A-Wish kids and volunteers and corporate supporter Virgie Ramos of Gift Gate with big-hearted comedy king Dolphy who granted one of the kids' wishes.

So many reasons to Smile

From page E1

Swatch, Sanrio Surprises, Benetton and Fujifilm stores, customers got the chance to have instant fashion shoots with celebrity photographers Wig Tysman, Jun de Leon, Bobot Meru and Xander Angeles at the Fujifilm studio.



TOP THREE winners of the Why Smile? Gift Gate and Fujifilm photo competition—Dr. Roberto Mendoza, second place for "Catnap"; Edwin Loyola, first place for "Baby Lark"; and Samuel de Leon, third place for "Fun with Kitty"—with cohosts Martin Nievera and Tessa Prieto-Valdez and ace lensman Wyg Tysman

DIRECTOR Rowell Santiago tries his new Finepix F700 digital camera from Fujifilm, which is a Gift Gate licensee.

Gift Gate, the company that has made an industry out of making people happy, once again orchestrated a weekend of fun and fulfillment

Kids spent hours playing and building with Legos at the Lego Play Corner. Girls also had fun being Swatch Magazine cover girls or posing in their very own Benetton fashion shoot. For a touch of glam before facing the cameras, they had a choice of four beauty nooks offering nail art, henna tattoo, face paint and hair styling.

In the afternoon, celebrities helped make the wishes of nine seriously ill kids come true. Aizel got to meet Lucy Torres-Gomez and daughter Juliana; Ariane got a computer and the pleasure of meeting Judy Ann Santos; Marvin's bike was presented by Diether Ocampo; Redentor's cellphone was presented by Benjie Paras, Judy Ann was awarded a VCD component by Irene Martel-Francisco; Ella and Jerrick got to meet Aiza Seguerra, and Janor had the pleasure of meeting Dolphy, who presented him a cell phone.

There were 100 winners in the Gift Gate-Fujifilm photo competition. The top winners were:

- 1st: Edwin Loyola, "Baby Lark"
- 2nd: Roberto Mendoza, "Catnap"
- 3rd: Samuel de Leon, "Fun with Kitty"
- 1st runner-up: Alejandro Alvarez, "Surprised!"
- 2nd runner-up: Mark Ramsel Salvatus, "Smile. .. Your B. P. is Ok!"

The Gift Gate Why Smile? awardees were:

- 1st: Niccolo Cosme, "Why Smile? Ang Saya-Saya Eh!"
- 2nd: Edwin Bacasmas, "Ninoy Swatching Over You"
- 3rd: Ramon Vecina, "Bringing Home the Gold"
- 1st runner-up: Hermenegildo Rapanan Jr., "Big Smile"
- 2nd runner-up: Suzy Calma, "Lego Tooth"

The top entries to the photo contest are still on display at major Gift Gate stores. For more information on the Make-A-Wish Foundation, call 8177387/8178779.

FLY high as girls jump on a trampoline at the Benetton photo booth—a simulation of a New York fashion shoot attended by Benetton's image models Rissa Samson and Tim Yap

NOW you do my hair. A girl gets a Hello Kitty face paint and gives the hairstyling techniques a try in one of the beauty nooks

"I'LL be there for you," the Make-A-Wish Foundation's unofficial theme song, is the promise Martin Nievera makes to the Wish kids whose lives were changed in an afternoon of wish granting and fun bonding with celebrities like Dolphy.

GIANT horoscope Hello Kitty birthday cake especially made for the September birthday celebrators—Wish kid Aziel and her wish, Julianna Gomez—from Red Ribbon, a Gift Gate licensee.

India hosts reception for its Magsaysay awardees

HARDWORKING and popular Indian Ambassador **Nevrekha Sharma** hosted a reception at her residence for the two Magsaysay awardees from India.

One of them, **James Michael Lyngdoh,** India's Chief Election Commissioner who was singled out for outstanding government service, should have been invited to address our own commissioners, who don't appear to understand anything about the words fair and democratic when it comes to elections.

The other awardee was **Shantha Sinha,** who has worked to eradicate child labor and ensure education for all the children in the state of Andhra Pradesh. She was cited for community leadership.

Meeting both of these individuals was an honor.

***

Who doesn't know **Mary Prieto?** From actress to fashion icon to columnist and now author, here is another of our Filipina achievers.

The launch of her memoirs, "No Regrets," at PowerBooks was well-attended by her many friends and well wishers. **Chitang Nakpil's** welcoming remarks, full of wit and underlying fondness for the author, was likewise well-received. It was a gathering of people whose faces you seldom now see in the pages of newspapers.

***

Commissioning the Manila Symphony Orchestra, bolstered by members of the San Miguel Orchestra, to play for you is a delightful manner of enjoying your dinner—if you've got the money, as someone pointed out.

At **Baby Arenas'** sit-down dinner at the Mandarin Ballroom, guests from the diplomatic corps such as Italian Ambassador **Umberto Colesanti,** who was jetting off the next morning for his August vacation, Belgian Ambassador **Christiaan** and Mme. **Gul Tanghe,** just back from celebrating their National Day in Cebu, German Ambassador **Herbert** and **Micheline Jess,** Dr. **Jaime Laya,** National

CRISELDA Lontok, Mary Prieto and Nena Casimiro

COMMISSIONER Leo Prieto and Ambassador Isabel Wilson

MALAYSIAN Ambassador Noor Taufik, Italian Ambassador Umberto Colesanti and Kuwaiti Ambassador Ibrahim al-Muhanna

BELGIAN Ambassador Christiaan and Mme. Gul Tanghe

FR. Mariano Ponce, UST vice rector, and Venezuelan Ambassador Milena Ramirez

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

Artist **Anding Roces,** Sen. **Loren Legarda,** publisher **Max Soliven, Nedy Tantoco,** Rep. **Teddy** and **Louie Locsin,** Finance Secretary **Jose** and **Kim Camacho** and others were entertained by no less than the hostess and birthday celebrator herself singing "Our Love Affair" from that all-time romantic movie, "An Affair to Remember"—which just about described her birthday bash.

***

There's a new venue for launches and exhibits that events organizers might want to look into seriously. This is the museum of the University of Santo Tomas which is a well-kept secret, but not for long.

The vastly energetic Venezuelan Ambassador **Milena Ramirez** has used the venue more than once. The last time was for an exhibit of stamps from Venezuela that appealed to philatelists and art lovers alike. The Ambassador has also sponsored performances of Venezuelan music to introduce her country's culture to us.

Meeting James Michael Lyngdoh and Shantha Sinha, cited for government service and community leadership, respectively, was an honor

SHANTA Sinha, Magsaysay awardee for community leadership, and **Indian Ambassador Nevrekha Sharma** PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

Promo duration: September 28 - November 14, 2003. Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0904, Series of 2003. See posters for details.

Wilkins is recommended by more pediatricians than any other bottled water[1].

Protect yourself and your family from water-borne diseases with the most recommended bottled drinking water among pediatricians—Wilkins.

About a million Filipinos (some 70% of which are children) get sick with water-borne diseases each year. And these are diarrhea cases alone. It doesn't include other water-borne diseases like amoebiasis, cholera, typhoid, cryptosporidiosis and more.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) about 3.4 million people, mostly children, die annually from water-related diseases. The culprit remains to be contaminated water as well as the lack of a clean water supply.

Causes of Water Contamination
Unfortunately, the sources of water contamination are byproducts of progress. These include industrial waste, leaking of underground fuel tanks, as well as the toxic runoff of chemicals used in paving and building materials.

Groundwater contaminated with nitrate for example, when used for infant formula or drinking water for young children causes the fatal methemoglobinemia or "blue baby syndrome".

Exposure to lead can cause delays in normal physical and mental development, deficits in attention span, hearing, and learning abilities in babies and young children. Because lead contamination of drinking water usually occurs from corrosion of old household lead pipes and solder, dangerously high concentrations can't always be detected or removed.

Over and above chemical toxins in our water such as chlorine, lead, pesticides, etc., there are also microbiological threats since traditional water purification measures may not be as effective against many waterborne diseases.

Some Common Measures
Boiling drinking water is a time-honored solution among Filipino families to get clean drinking water. Boiling is often recommended as a first-line, household disinfection method, and said to be a reliable method since even chlorination may not be able to protect against protozoa[2].

However, while it has been proven to kill most waterborne pathogens, it spares bacterial endospores[3]—bacteria in a dormant or inactive state. Moreover, water that has been brought to a vigorous rolling boil for one minute can kill but sometimes only inactivate the vegetative forms of bacteria and viruses.

This means the possibility remains for bacteria and viruses to get back to life and cause water-borne diseases.

Drinking pure, safe water: the best alternative
While hygiene and sanitation are some of the major solutions to prevent waterborne diseases, drinking pure, safe water is still the best preventive measure you and your family can take.

That's why the choice of bottled drinking water like Wilkins Distilled Drinking Water is the most practical one.

The No. 1 Bottled Distilled Drinking Water
As the No. 1 bottled distilled drinking water in the retail segment[4], Wilkins' is the country's most trusted bottled drinking water. This stems from its 5-step, purification and distillation process called SPE-5 (Safety & Purity Edge-5), which follows:

1-Activated Carbon Filtration- Raw water taken from the underground source first goes through carbon filtration. Organic compounds, odor, iron, chlorine, and color impurities are removed.

2-Softening- The filtered water is subsequently stripped of its hardness salts.

3-Micronfiltration- Removes all suspended solids and some bacteria.

4-Distillation- The carbon-filtered, softened and micron-filtered water is rid further of any dissolved solids through distillation. The heart of the process, this stage completely yields pure water.

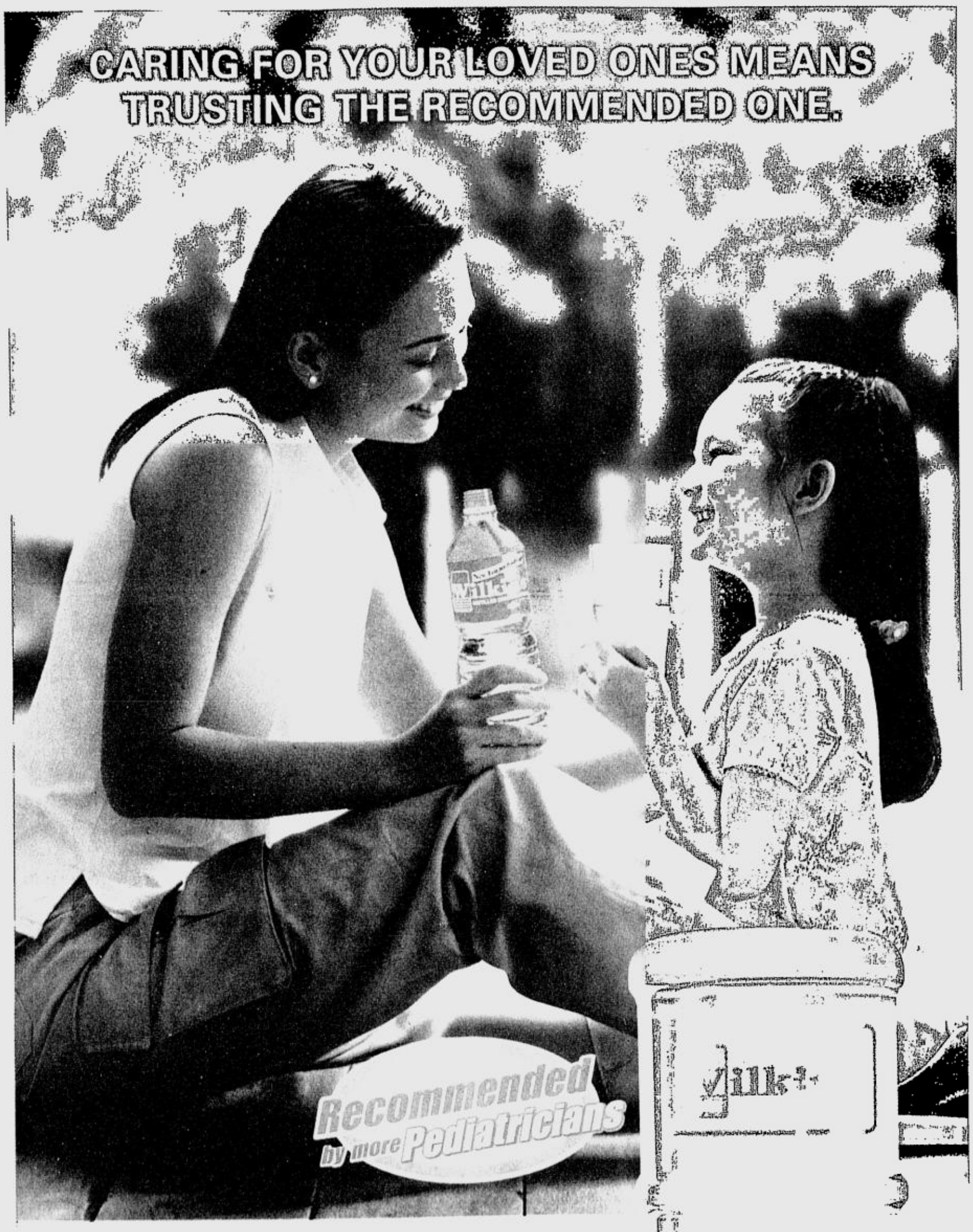
5-Ozonation- This is done as the last step to provide added safety inWilkins Distilled Drinking Water. The Ozone is in fact an effective way to eliminate all bacteria, mold, fungi and viruses.

Moreover, Wilkins is sealed under hygienic, fully automated conditions. Certainly, all purification measures necessary have been taken by Wilkins to ensure that you and your family get nothing but pure and safe distilled drinking water.

Recommended by most pediatricians
This is the reason why pediatricians recommend Wilkins to their patients. In a recent survey conducted among Philippine pediatricians who use bottled water, pediatrician confessed that they recommend Wilkins above any other bottled drinking water because of its purity and safety.

Let's help each other fight the war against water-borne diseases. Always drink nothing but pure and safe distilled drinking water like Wilkins—the choice of most pediatricians.

[1] 2003 survey conducted among 400 pediatricians
[2] R. Bonadio and RA Salata "Health Advice for Travelling Children," Nelson's Textbook of Pediatrics 15th edition, ed. W. Nelson (Philadelphia: WB Saunders Company, 1996) 1021.
[3] MA Martin and RP Wenzel. "Sterilization, Disinfection and Disposal of Infectious Waste," Principles and Practice of Infectious Disease, 4th ed., vol. 2, ed. GL Mandell et al. (New York: Churchil l Livingstone, 1995), 2579.
[4] July 2003, AC Nielsen



Wilkins has been the consistent standard of purity and safety in bottled drinking water. And now, it has been hailed in a recent survey as the bottled drinking water most recommended by pediatricians. Thus, if Wilkins is good enough for babies, it's more than good enough for your whole family.

Wilkins
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ADVT.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday LIFESTYLE

Hello, body

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

By Gilda Cordero-Fernando

The human body can play music, kill germs, make a baby, recite poetry, and monitor the movements of the stars all at the same time.
—Deepak Chopra

A LARGE number of people have accepted (or experienced) that the human being has four bodies. These "bodies" are not layered one upon another like suits but are interpenetrating. They act on one another. They are called: the physical body, the etheric body, the astral body and the ego.

The physical body is what one can touch, in other words—"my toes, my knees, my shoulders, my head." Aside from being three-fourths water, the physical body is also composed of minerals. This is what it has in common with the mineral world—its soil, sand, rocks and crystals.

That is why one is always asked to take "vitamins and minerals," to build a strong body, to replenish its iron, calcium, magnesium, potassium, zinc, copper and so forth.

Once a person dies, her physical body, now known as corpse, decays—it reverts to the laws of the mineral realm. As the priest says it, "Our sister has returned to dust." The physical body is sometimes the only body some people recognize.

Why does a human body always look like a human body? Not a square or a blob, not a giraffe or an ET or a squash, but always an upright component of head, torso and limbs? Because it has an architect or director in man's second element which is his etheric body.

The etheric body is the carrier of the life and growth forces in the body. It gives a definite form and shape to the mineral and other substances existing in the physical body. Throughout its life the etheric body fights for this integration. When the etheric body lets go, the physical body dies, loses its form, disintegrates.

Referred to in physics as "the vehicle of light," the etheric body is not of the ether. Rather, it is a force, a life force. It interpenetrates the physical body completely (as do the other three bodies).

We know that when a sensitive person reaches out to another, she can feel the vibrations of the two invisible etheric substances touching even when they are standing apart. It is this etheric body which directs their growth.

The etheric body is what man has in common with plants. Made of the same recycled elements—such as carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen are the human body and the *gumamela* bush.

Feelings and instincts

Our third body is called the astral body. It is the carrier of feelings and instincts. The astral body is what the human being has in common with animals. Left entirely to itself, the etheric body would remain in a continuous sleeping state (a plant existence).

The wake-up power, the ability to get back to life from a period of unconsciousness (sleep), is a function of the astral body. Just as the physical body depends upon the etheric body for its form, so the etheric body depends upon the astral body for its consciousness.

All the activity of a person is dependent upon his hours of wakefulness. But there would be no wakefulness if there were no sleep (like there would be no white if there were no black). In sleep, action and thought disappear. All suffering and all pleasure are submerged.

Sleep, an attribute of the etheric, is necessary for the restoration of one's exhausted life forces. Then out of the mysterious depths, forces from the astral body arise, and one is conscious again, alive again, awake and ready for a new day.

The astral body does not belong to the physical realm. It belongs to the universe with the stars and planets, the same universe out of which the human being was born (hence its name, astral).

At night, released from the physical and ether bodies, the astral body floats up, "goes home" as it were, to learn things up there that it cannot learn from the earth. It returns with other-worldly images that inform our dreams and give us new insights. The astral body is the connector of the material and the spiritual worlds.

It is the astral body that is dislodged during a shock from an accident or a grave illness. It is the member that can float above, witnessing the other body (the physical) lying below,

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We miss you dude! How's Singapore?

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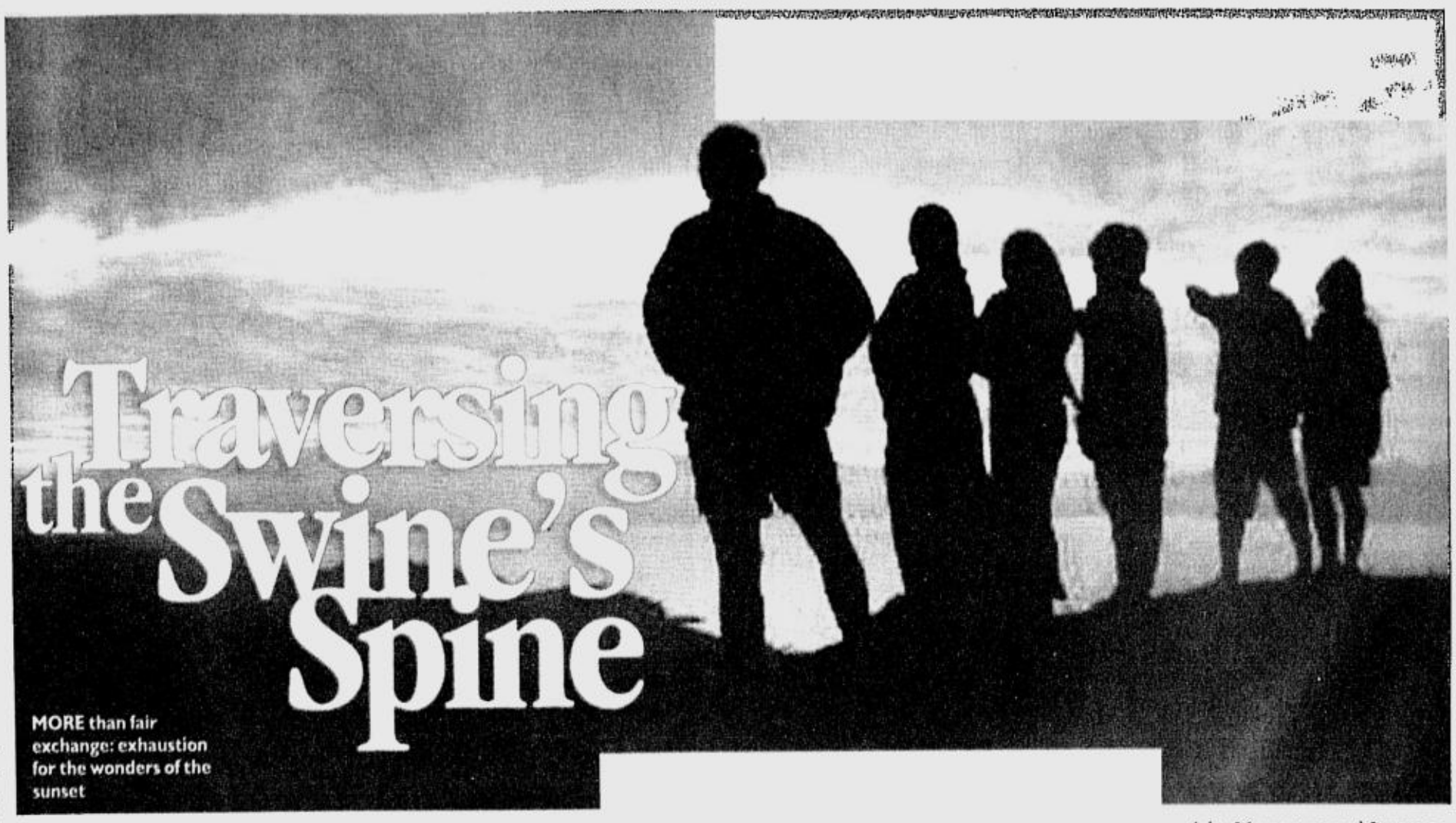
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2003

TRAVEL

Editor **Rosario A. Garcellano**



Traversing the Swine's Spine

MORE than fair exchange: exhaustion for the wonders of the sunset

By M. Aleah Taboclaon
Contributor

IT was a Friday night, it had just rained, and I had a fever. But I climbed out of bed and carefully stuffed my large backpack with clothes, a first-aid kit, some food, and 4.5 liters of water—all in Ziplock bags.

I was getting ready for my first training climb with the UP Mountaineers (UPM). My mother, though bewildered that I would endure a grueling climb just to admire the view, gave me her blessings.

D-Day started well enough. I slept over at the house of a friend—also an applicant to the UPM—and we woke at 4 a.m., had breakfast, and made last-minute changes in our packing. Then we proceeded to the Tritran station in Kamuning, where we boarded a bus bound for Batangas (fare: P116).

After an hour and a half, we arrived in Bauan. From there, our team leader rented a jeepney for Barangay San Teodoro (P600 one way), and in less than an hour, we were at the jump-off point at the base of Mt. Gulugod Baboy (or "swine's spine," per Tsok Cordero's literal translation).

On hindsight, Gulugod, around 500 meters above sea level, was not that hard to climb. Under different circumstances, it would have been a comfortable hike. The trail was paved in concrete for the first few meters up, and the elevation was consistent at a little over 45 degrees. Nearing 10 a.m. the temperature was not unpleasant because a breeze was blowing from Balayan Bay to our right. Seasoned climbers would take it as a walk in the park.

But for some of us, Gulugod could very well have been Mt. Pulag, the highest point in Luzon. It was our first time to carry such a heavy load, and the straps of our backpacks, inexpertly put, cut through our shoulders.

We stopped 30 minutes into the trek, and it was all I could do to keep from collapsing like a log. One of my fellow applicants was exhausted to the point of fainting, and the others relieved her of a bit of her load. The break refreshed us but the whistle to load up came too soon.

Load up I did, and started walking. I was, after all, the pacer—the identified slowest member of the bunch.

Then something happened to my right knee: It burned with every step I took, and I could not even bend it without feeling like I was going to faint. I tried to keep it as straight as possible—a virtual impossibility when one is climbing a mountain!—and bit my lips to keep from crying.

I told our team leader, but he did not make a big deal of it. I remember being in constant terror of him, for every now and then he would bark: "This is your training climb! Make it fast!"

I plodded on, looking neither left nor right, ignoring the view that my hardier fellow applicants loudly appreciated. I was completely focused on the ground in front of me, on the pain that I felt every time I took a step, on the thought that we were less than halfway to the peak. I wallowed in the pain, keeping in mind what a friend told me once: of welcoming pain because through it, she knew that she could feel, that she was alive. I repeatedly told myself: "Yes! I'm alive, I'm alive!"

There is nothing like mountain climbing for one to feel fully alive—and, at the same time, to wish one were dead.

To be fair, our team leader was encouraging me when he was not bawling out the rest of us ("You're suffering? You shouldn't have joined the UPM!"), telling me that if I could hold on for a few more minutes, I would be drinking ice-cold Coke soon. I ignored him, having decided that apathy was better than bopping him on the head. How could he be so cruel? A chilled soft drink would definitely lift my spirits, but considering that we were in the middle of nowhere...

I was pleasantly surprised when I realized that he was right, as I saw the cluster of *sari-sari* stores marking Sitio Panay in San Teodoro. My steps quickened, and I was almost running the last few meters to a store, where we had lunch.

During the break, I liberally smeared an ointment on my knees, unmindful of the smell and of the UPM members' caution that it would not work. They were right, of course. The pain did not ease, but the smell reminded me of my grandmother and comforted me somewhat.

The second leg of our trek was much better; a UPM member graciously lent me his walking stick, and it saved me from our team leader's wrath at least. The rest of the way, I set a good pace, although not as fast as they would have liked.

Some five hours after we set off, I could not believe what was before us. They called the approach to the summit an assault, and for me, it was literally an assault on my senses. The peak was hundreds of meters up, and sloping for more than 45 degrees! There was no trail, only grass and clumps of cow and horse dung. There were no shrubs on which we could hold.

It was torture.

But in the process of taking one difficult step after another, I reached the summit, where the UPM members heartily congratulated me and the other applicants. I dropped to the ground and took a few minutes to catch my breath. When I recovered, I took stock of my surroundings.

CAMPSITE overlooking Balayan Bay

The 360-degree view was indeed breathtaking. I forgot my pain, my fatigue, my self-pity. I turned around, and beauty greeted my eyes everywhere. I could see the ocean, the Sombrero Island beckoning with a soft glow. A little turn and I could see the sloping ridges (resembling the golf courses of Peninsula de Punta Fuego) that gave Gulugod Baboy its name. I could also see Anilao, Maricaban Island, the mountains of Maculot, Halcon, and Arayat, and even Mindoro.

I was tired, hungry and hurting, but also captivated. This is the essence of mountain climbing, I thought: to be with nature at its very best after a long, hard climb.

My friend, lying down with her pack still unloaded, exclaimed: "It's so beautiful here! We're on the level of the birds!"

Indeed, there was a sense of being close to heaven. There was nothing but ourselves, the clouds, the mountains, and the free-wheeling birds, seemingly close enough to touch. Humanity and its problems were far away.

I could have stayed there forever, but we did not stay for even an hour. We had to set up camp, and for that, we had to go to the clearing a few meters below the summit.

After a short lecture on camp management, we loaded our packs again and slowly descended. I had thought of rolling my pack and myself downward, but the UPM members said I could seriously damage not only the pack but also the vegetation.

The fog rolled in as we set up camp. It was magnificent.

Reminiscent of the old English horror stories, the fog slowly made the city and the mountains disappear, then enveloped our tents and ourselves, to the point that we could no longer see beyond 10 feet.

It was cold, and there was a drizzle. I wore a jacket and rain gear over a thick T-shirt, so I could not believe it when I saw some UPM members strutting around in swimming trunks.

Then the fog lifted, and the sight was no less glorious. As the deep blue sky grew darker, the city lights blinked on from afar. I was moved by the thought that we enjoyed something that night that city dwellers, with their TV sets and refrigerators and suffocating traffic fumes, did not.

At 5 the next morning, I woke bleary-eyed, cold and wet in the tent that got drenched during the night. My partner and I were assigned to cook breakfast, so we set at it, cooking rice, frying dozens of eggs, heating the leftover beef stew. They said the colors of the sunrise were spectacular, and in fact I had a brief glimpse of the sun struggling to show itself through orange-tinted clouds. But I was not and have never been a morning person. I concentrated on the fried eggs.

Then the signal to load up came. As the pacer, I was the first to follow our team leader as he descended and then ascended one golf-course-like ridge after another. It was again a slow pace for me because my knees started acting up.

We used another trail on the way down, and though the view of the ocean on my left was grand, I could not devote my attention to it. We were walking on a trail less than a foot in width, the mountain to my right, and the cliff to the left. One wrong step and I would hurtle downward...

A few hours later, we reached the beach (cottage rental: P200/day). The water was cold and refreshing, and as I paddled near the shore, I pondered on my experience.

When I get back to Manila, would I be able to say with honesty and confidence that I would return to the mountains and climb again? Repeat the numbing pain in my knees, the freezing cold, sleeping in a wet tent, and lugging what felt like hundreds of pounds on my back? Or would I be grateful to be in my small apartment, dry and comfortable and reading a good book?

I decided that yes, definitely, I would be back. Knee pain will heal, scratches and assorted wounds will close, but the memory of feeling on top of the world is something priceless, something to treasure when the time comes that I will no longer be physically able to do so.

I could not wait to return to Manila to start training for our next climb.

(As it turned out, the Magdalo mutiny in Makati stranded us in Batangas that day. Instead of spending the night at the terminal, we proceeded to a UPM member's house in Cavite and celebrated our success with cases of beer and bottles of *lambanog* and red wine. But that is another story altogether.)

DESCENT toward the ocean

PHOTOS BY MARKO SAMSON

TravelBriefs

Coffee tour

FOR generations, the cool upland town of Amadeo in Cavite has grown, processed and packed coffee. Known as the "Coffee Town of the Philippines," it is a case study of how the local industry is fast regaining its former stature as a world leader in the coffee trade.

On Oct. 25, Inscribe Tours and the local government of Amadeo will take visitors on a "coffee tour" through the various phases of the crop's journey, from fragile seedling to ripe berry to steaming cup of java.

The tour begins with Amadeo Mayor OJ Ambagan welcoming visitors with home-brewed Café Amadeo and native delicacies. They will then visit a coffee nursery, a plantation, post-harvest and processing facilities, as well as a coffee-wood furniture shop.

It being the harvest season, visitors may pick berries from coffee trees. Lunch at the coffee farm and a coffee break cum *merienda* are included in the tour.

Those wishing to become weekend farmers but don't know where to start may find the answer in Amadeo's "Adopt-a-Farm" project. For tour reservations, call 575-8370, 840-5912 or 0919-818-4697.

Cargo service

CHINA Southern Airlines (CSA) and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines have announced new joint long-haul 747 freighter services four times weekly between Shanghai's Pudong airport and Amsterdam's Schiphol airport.

The cargo accord will be implemented starting Oct. 15. CSA will launch a new twice-weekly service between Amsterdam and Shanghai while KLM Cargo will continue its current twice-weekly freighter services on the same route.

The two carriers will share capacity on all four flights using new Boeing 747 freighters.

KLM Cargo is a division of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, the oldest airline in the world that turns 85 next year and serves more than 75 countries on six continents.

CSA, the largest airline in The People's Republic of China for the past 23 years, connects more than 80 cities worldwide.

'You're OK'

THE SINGAPORE Tourism Board (STB) recently launched an incentive program dubbed "You're OK," which is aimed at rewarding the 125,000th, 150,000th and 200,000th Filipino visitors to Singapore this year.

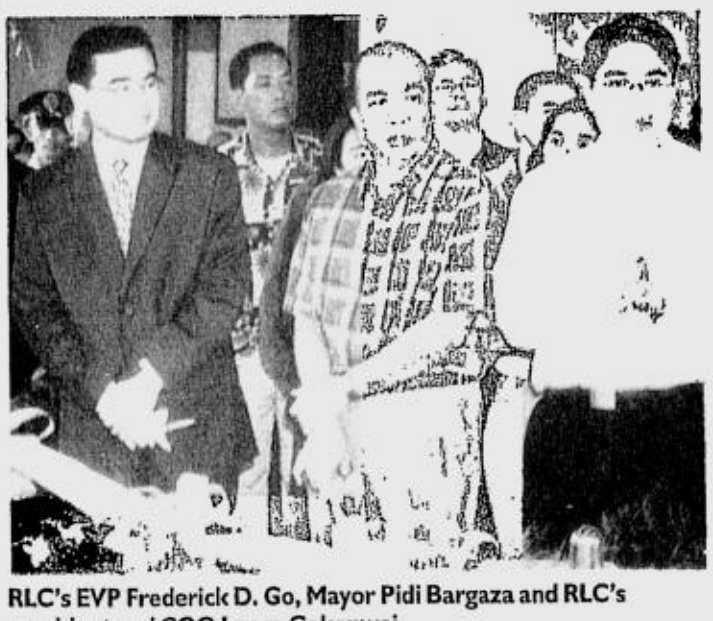
STB headquarters is keeping track of daily Filipino tourist arrivals, which hit the 100,000th mark toward the end of August.

A welcome party consisting of representatives of STB and Singapore-based Philippine government agencies will be on hand to greet the lucky visitor upon arrival at the Changi airport.

The prizes are: for the 125,000th visitor, 4-day/3-night stay for two in a 4-star hotel, economy class air tickets and pocket money; 150,000th visitor, 6-day/5-night stay for two in a 5-star hotel, economy class air tickets and pocket money; and 200,000th visitor, 8-day/7-night stay in a premium hotel, first class air tickets and pocket money.

Here's what's going on in the Lion City for the rest of the year: Deepavali Light-Up, International Latin Festival, Hari Raya Light-Up, and Marcel Marceau's 50th anniversary tour in October; Tiger Skins, The Great Singapore Duck Race, 21st Singapore River Regatta and Bollywood Extravaganza in November; and Christmas Light-Up, World Wrestling Entertainment, and Standard Chartered Singapore Marathon in December.

For inquiries, contact STB-Philippines at 636-0258 or e-mail stbphils@pacific.net.ph.



RLC's EVP Frederick D. Go, Mayor Pidi Bargaza and RLC's president and COO Lance Gokonwei

Lucky 13th is in Cavite

NUMBER 13 proved to be auspicious for Robinsons Land Corporation (RLC) that inaugurated recently Robinsons Place Dasmariñas, its 13th shopping mall and the second in Cavite.

Thousands of people trooped to the mall despite the heavy downpour for the event.

Local government officials-Dasmariñas Mayor Pidi Barzaga, former broadcast journalist and Rep. Gilbert Remulla and Cavite Gov. Ayong Maliksi-attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Joining them were JG Summit's chair emeritus John Gokongwei Jr., RLC's president and chief operating officer Lance Y. Gokongwei, RLC's executive vice president Frederick D. Go, and Robinsons Malls' general manager Nilo S. Mapa.

A free show was held at the fountain area featuring Jay-R and Marielle.

Robinsons Place Dasmariñas, at the corner of Aguinaldo Highway and Governor's Drive, has over 90 retail, food and entertainment outlets including Robinsons Department Store, Big R Supercenter, Handyman-Do-It-Best and, soon, Robinsons Movieworld.

Also to be found at the mall are Dunkin' Donuts, Itti Shoes, Perez Optical, Photoline, Kameraworld, Booksale, Secosana, Broadway Gems, Bench, Pizza Hut, Bobson, Vision Express, Everything 100, Mr. Quickie, Mendrez, Lee, Jag, P99 Store, Rusty Lopez, Dickies, Genevieve Gozum, Marcella, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Unisilver, Olympic Village, David's Salon, LBC, 50%, Genato's Pasta, Villaluz Restaurant, U2M, Sugar & Spice Everything Nice, Bench, Gems & Jewels, Twinline Trading, DGD Trading, Body Tech, Frio Mixx, Cycle Shack, and Mongkok Express, among others.

JG SUMMIT chair emeritus John Gokongwei, RLC's EVP Frederick D. Go, Gov. Ireneo "Ayong" Maliksi and Rep. Gibert Remulla

Watch colorful vintas in Manila Bay

THE FILIPINO Heritage Festival concludes its nationwide month-long celebration of Filipino art, culture, history and beauty with a uniquely colorful Vinta Regatta today.

Take in the ocean breeze and catch the vibrant vintas as they set sail at 4 p.m. on Manila Bay fronting The Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel. Authentic *vintas* will be brought in from Zamboanga, courtesy of Super Ferry.

Known for their vivid and distinctly designed sails, *vintas* play an immense cultural significance in Mindanao's seafaring history.

The Vinta Regatta is open to the public. It is done in coordination with the Department of Tourism and the City of Zamboanga.

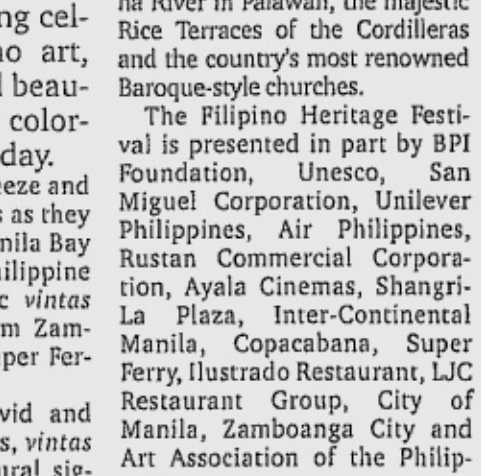
The Westin Philippine Plaza and Unesco will also hold The Kite Art Exhibit today up to Oct. 12. The exhibit will showcase images of Unesco World Heritage sites in the Philippines immortalized on uniquely constructed kites.

Designed by young artists of the Art Association of the Philippines, the kites will feature images of the historic town of Vigan, breathtaking natural wonders like Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park and Tubbataha River in Palawan, the majestic Rice Terraces of the Cordilleras and the country's most renowned Baroque-style churches.

The Filipino Heritage Festival is presented in part by BPI Foundation, Unesco, San Miguel Corporation, Unilever Philippines, Air Philippines, Rustan Commercial Corporation, Ayala Cinemas, Shangri-La Plaza, Inter-Continental Manila, Copacabana, Super Ferry, Ilustrado Restaurant, LJC Restaurant Group, City of Manila, Zamboanga City and Art Association of the Philippines.

For inquiries on the schedule of events and other information on the Filipino Heritage Festival, contact the NCCA secretariat at 5272192 or BSMG Worldwide, Inc. at 8175670 and look for Edcel Ignacio.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



Hello, *body*

From page F1

seemingly asleep—what we call an "out-of-body" experience.

Actually, an out-of-body experience can be conjured, or it can happen quite naturally, on a normal day. People call it an "astral trip."

Because it is the link, the astral body has many functions. From the universe or the world of the spirit, it imbibes patterns (what egg-heads call "archetypes").

These are the ideas originating in the divine intellect that determine the forms of things created, such as the archetype of the human body (who else could have invented it?) This is the pattern or the building plan with which the etheric body is provided and on which the physical body models its growth.

Divine spark

We have still a fourth "body" called the ego (not to be confused with the overblown Ego that is the cause of all obstructions in human relations). Technically not a "body," the ego has nothing in common with the material world—it is the spark of the divine that sets man apart from all other creatures.

The ego (also known as the "I") works with the other bodies—the physical, the etheric, and most closely with the astral. What waking and sleeping are to the astral body, memory and forgetting are to the ego.

So, not only does a human being seek food because she's hungry, but because memory has remained of the feeling of satisfaction that the partaking of food has given.

It is also the ego, working with the astral body, that allows a human being to differentiate between haphazardly prepared food and an epicurean meal. It is also because of the ego that one can appreciate a meal in a setting of fine china and flowers, as well as the cook, the farmers, the sun and the rain that made it possible.

Under the tutelage of the ego, the human being does not act like a wild beast when angry nor does he kill the object of his ire. He does not rape the first female he sees when his sexual needs are aroused.

Ego working on the soul produces faculties of discernment. Hence, not only can the human choose not to eat when he's hungry, he can even fast for days, and even for a cause. He can be a sexually fulfilled married man or he could be a celibate monk.

Memory associates with a present need past experiences when the postponement of a craving gave rise to a greater good. And so we see a world of difference between a person who simply surrenders himself to instinct, as in greed, anger or lust, and another who can see a bigger picture and takes responsibility for his life.

The astral body, repository of all human feelings, in its best form is called "soul." Thus we refer to heartfelt music as "soul music," a person whom we relate to deeply as a "soul sister."

All forms of aesthetics belong to the soul, from painting, to good wine, to the proportions of the Cultural Center, to the play and the violin concert going on in it.

Corrective time

Memory, of course, would not be operative without its polarity—forgetting, or oblivion. Time drops a veil over bad memories. We would not be able to function if the trauma of a serious accident or the sting of a lover's rejection remained as vivid today as when it took place years ago.

Oblivion or forgetting allows us to develop the strength to face new things without bias. People become neurotic when they cannot forget certain things. (A mild form is called a "hang-up.")

When we were children, what were the sources of our pleasure and our pain? Certainly very different from what they are today. We have hopefully grown. We have achieved some mastery over our astral body and can live without extreme manifestations of joy and sorrow. The same mastery, we are told, is possible over our etheric body.

Since the etheric body dictates "form," we therefore refer here to temperament and the deeper qualities of an individual's character.

Can we change character? Or temperament? Surely. A choleric or highly tempestuous child does not necessarily have to be a temperamental adult. He may end up a harmonious and sanguine boss.

The ego has the capacity of modifying character. However, since now it entails working with two bodies instead of one, change of character takes longer to achieve. It is the result of unrelenting hard work.

Familiar examples of changes in character are those brought about by religion or philosophy (men who "see the light" and suddenly give up a debauched or materially oriented existence).

Even more surprising is that the ego is not exhausted from all its work on the astral and etheric bodies. It can also do work on the physical.

> The human being is not an entity apart from the whole of creation. She is one with it

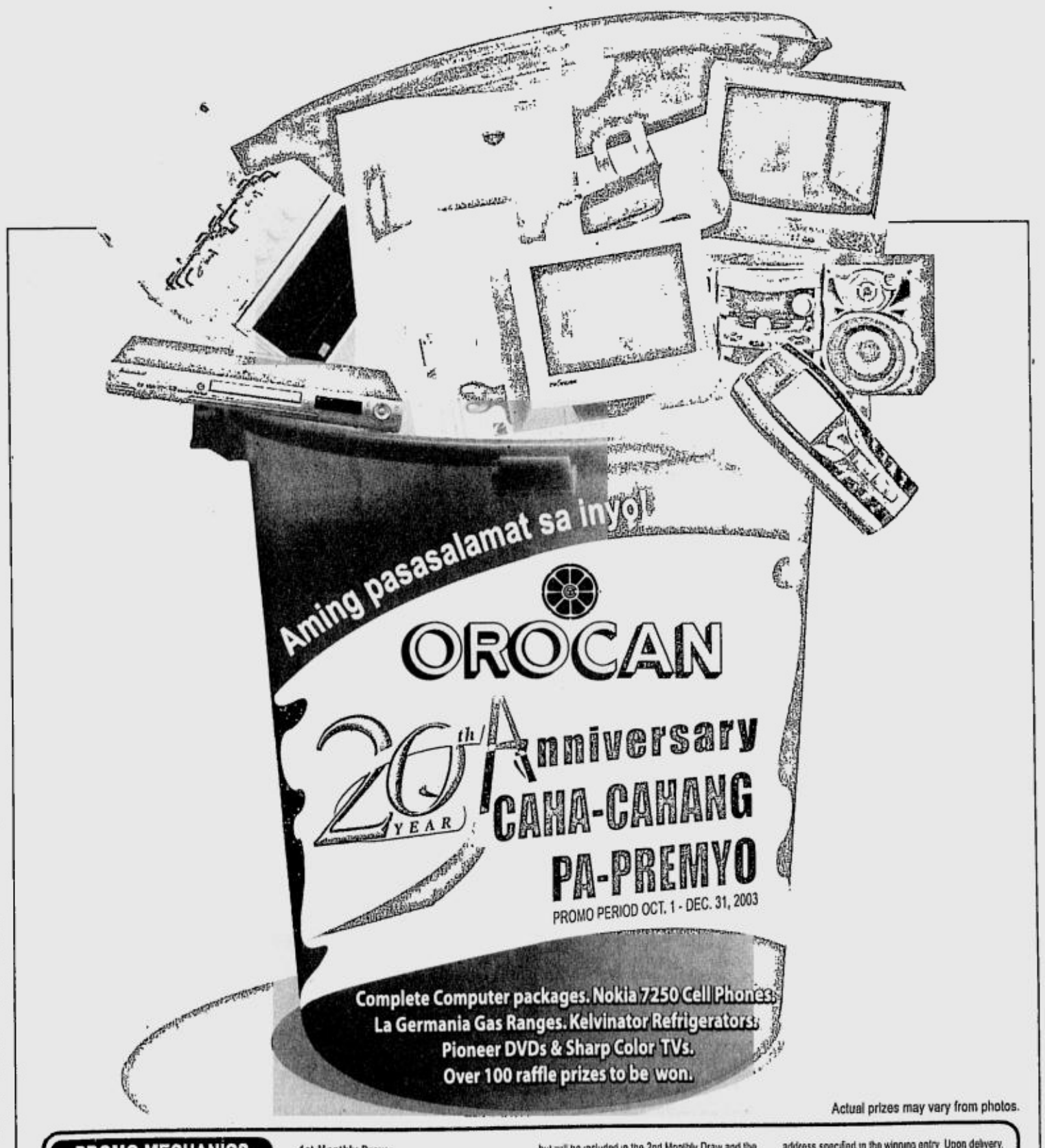
A trace effect of the "I" on the physical body is seen in a person who turns pale when frightened, or blushes when embarrassed. The ego is the direct cause of this physical change.

Today we are more conscious than ever of how our thoughts affect our bodily processes. Anger can make one ill. Bitterness can cause cancerous masses to form in our organs. Happy thoughts concentrated on giving can make one beautiful. Wellness and disease are the observable effects of the interaction between a human being's ego or spirit and the physical body.

Still higher uses of the four bodies are possible, the objective being a complete union with the divine of which they are a part.

The human being no longer sees herself as an entity apart from the earth and the whole of creation. She is one with it. What she does to all other creatures she does to herself and vice versa. Like the godhead, she has the power to destroy or build.

Abstracted from readings on Rudolf Steiner



Actual prizes may vary from photos.

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3. There will be two monthly draws and one grand draw to be held at Eat Bulaga, located at Broadway Studios, Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City. Mailed entries will be segregated per region. There will be one drop box for entries from GMA, one dropbox for Luzon and one drop box for VisMin (Visayas and Mindanao)
4. Schedule of draws, period covered and prizes as follows

1st Monthly Draw :
November 7, 2003 (Period Covered Oct 1-Nov 5,2003)
20 winners of (20-inch) 50 8cm - Sharp Color TV (20V-L75M) (10 in GMA, 5 in Luzon, 5 in VisMin)
20 winners of Pioneer DVD 266S (10 in GMA, 5 in Luzon, 5 in VisMin)

Second Monthly Draw :
December 12, 2003 (Period Covered Oct 1-Dec 10, 2003)
20 winners of (6-cu ft) 0.169 cu meter Kelvinator KPS-65D ref (10 in GMA, 5 in Luzon, 5 in VisMin)
20 winners of La Germania 510 WP Gas Range (10 in GMA, 5 in Luzon, 5 in VisMin)

Grand Draw :
January 9, 2004 (Period Covered Oct 1-Dec 31, 2003)
20 winners of Pioneer V5200 LV Mini Component (10 in GMA, 5 in Luzon, 5 in VisMin)
20 winners of Nokia 7250 Cellphone (unit only) (10 in GMA, 5 in Luzon, 5 in VisMin)
20 winners of EWIZZ (W4 9A16W-1D) Computer Packages (10 in GMA, 5 in Luzon, 5 in VisMin)

5. Deadline for submission of entries
-1st Monthly Draw : All entries must be received on or before November 5, 2003. Entries received after November 5 will not qualify for the 1st Monthly Draw but will be included in the 2nd Monthly Draw and the Grand Draw.
-2nd Monthly Draw : All entries must be received on or before December 10, 2003. Entries received after December 10 will not qualify for the 2nd Monthly Draw but will be included in the Grand Draw
-Grand Draw : All entries must be received on or before December 31, 2003
6. Non-winning entries in the 1st monthly draw will still be qualified for the second monthly draw and the grand draw. Non-winning entries in the second monthly draw will still be qualified for the grand draw.
7. A participant can win only once per draw. If a name wins more than once, he gets the bigger prize
8. Winners will be announced in Eat Bulaga after each draw, will be published in a newspaper of general circulation, and will be notified through registered mail.
9. Winners will also be advised thru registered mail how they may coordinate with Ashlar to claim their prizes. After proper verification of each winning entry, Ashlar will make arrangements on delivering the prize to the address specified in the winning entry. Upon delivery, winner must present to an authorized Ashlar representative a valid ID and the registered notice sent by Ashlar before he can claim his prize.
10. Ashlar shall pay the 20% tax for prizes exceeding Php10,000.00
11. Prizes are not convertible to cash.
12. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification shall be forfeited in favor of Ashlar Industrial Corp. with prior approval from DTI.
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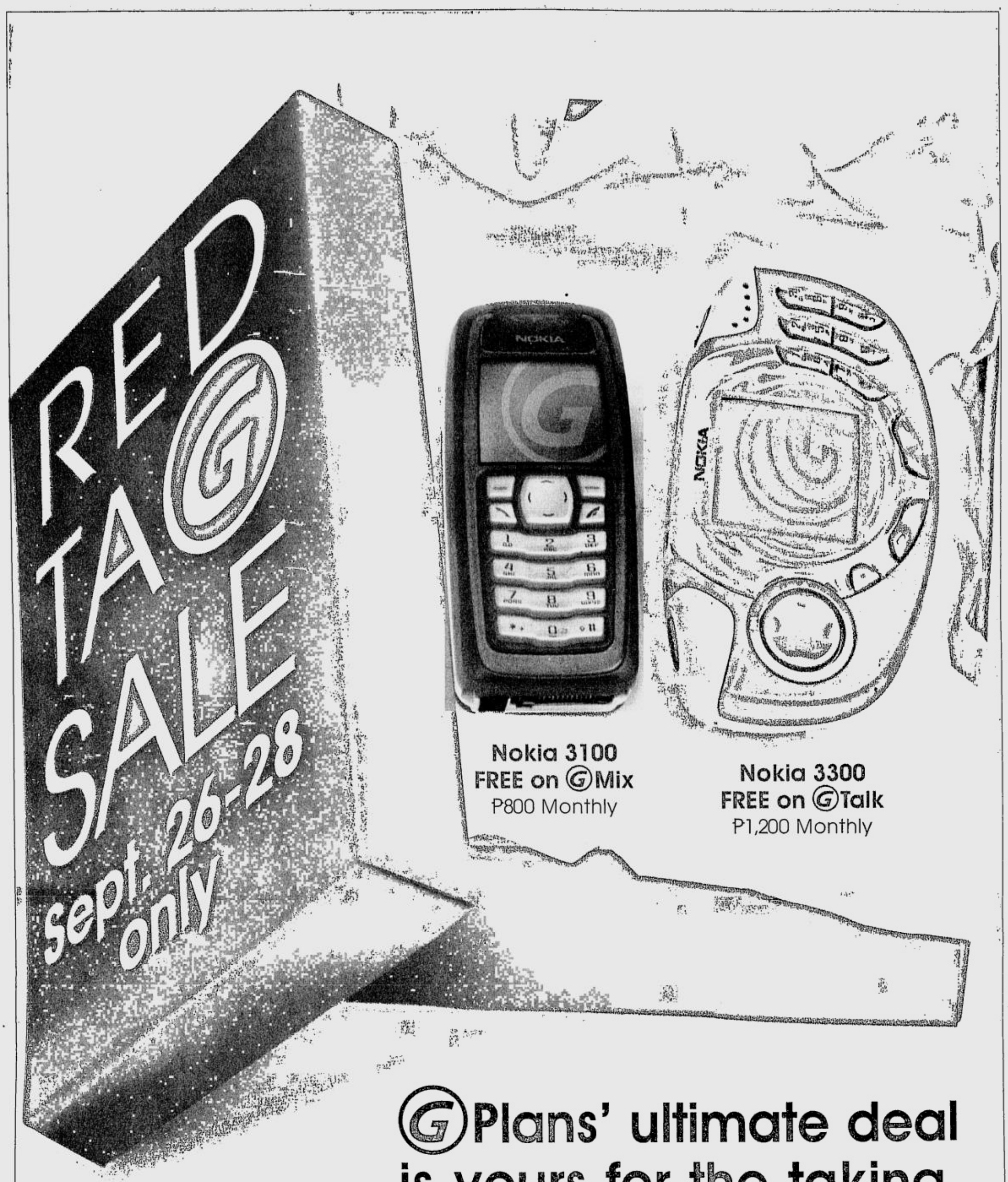

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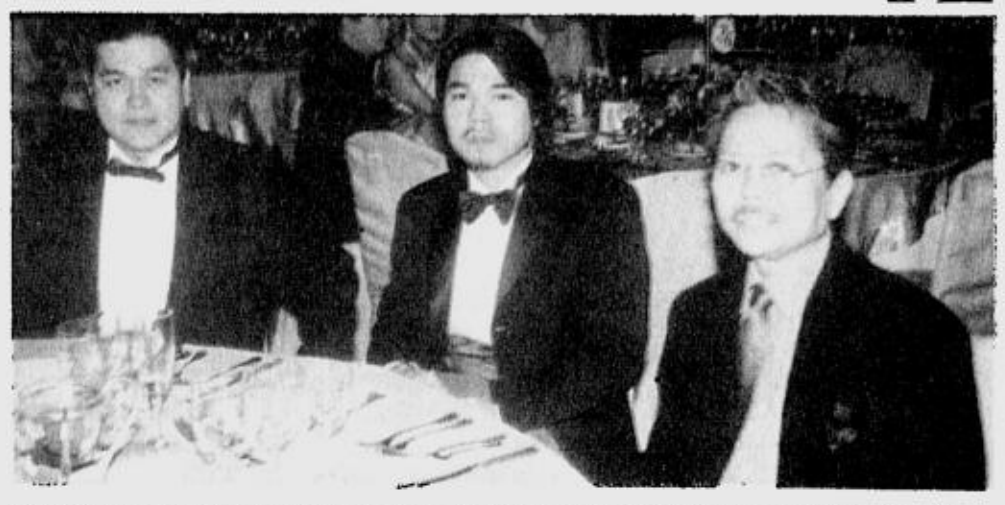
Sunday LIFESTYLE

Why I am hostess with the mostest



DESERVING Tatler awardees Ben Chan and fashion great Joe Salazar flank Miguel Pastor.

Hosting in haute couture and high hairdo —a new career goal?

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

I USUALLY do the hosting at my parties or at intimate affairs of close friends. If there is a microphone, it's normally with me just to get the evening going. Once the party shifts into karaoke gear, I leave the room. One day, when I've had the good fortune of taking voice lessons from the likes of **Lani Misalucha**, perhaps even simple tunes like "Jingle Bells" will be achievable for me.

Last weekend, I was not only part of two huge events but actually hosted them as well. I still get the jitters when it comes to public speaking, but nothing that a glass or two (hey, why stop there? Three!) of champagne can't cure.

I get less nervous if I have a cohost and the program does not require too many foreign names to announce. There is nothing worse than mispronouncing the names of important guests. I can never be a news reader. I mean, where's the accent in Bosnia-Herzegovina anyway?

But before I get into another of my extended digressions, let me get back to both events, where I must say, I did have excellent cohosts. Every time we would come across a name, say, "Baudoin Denis of BMW," I would just have my partner read the name and I would handle the ad lib, like "this would be much easier if they had sent Mark Gilbert!"

And as all the spiel writers out there know and dread, if there is one thing I can do, it is deviate from the script—with confidence, I might add.

For once, I was considerably early for Event No. 1: The 2nd Annual Philippine Tatler Ball. In fact, I was at the Makati Shangri-La by 3 p.m. to rehearse my segment. My cohost for the Tatler Awards was **Anton San Diego**, the only magazine editor in chief to get a cover photo into the INQUIRER front page. He had asked me to host several months earlier and, being a good friend, I was easily swayed. It helped that he gave me a red alligator Furla bag and a ring. I just made sure I got my demand in true show biz

WHY/ G2

PROMINENT ball guests: Doris Ho, Dr. Boya Mohindar, publisher and CEO of Asian Tatler, and Mely Hechanova in an Inno Sotto gown

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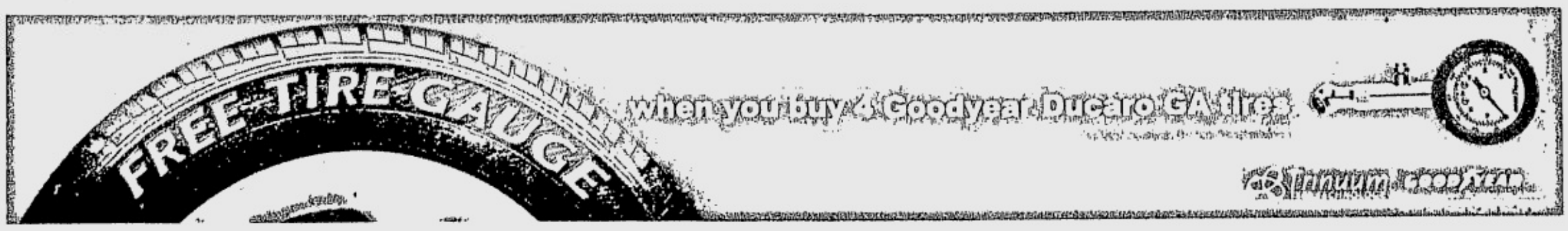


GOOD-LOOKING couple Marit and Tito Yuchengco

SLIMMER Kit Zobel with gorgeous hubby Fernando

NBC big boss Frances Lumen with stylish wife Maryanne

BEST figure in gown Sigalit Djemal with husband Sinai

GREAT in black and white Susan Reyes and Conrad Onglao

FINALLY married elegant couple Nick and Lucille Locsin

HOT
Joel U

Why I am hostess with the mostest

From page G1

style—top billing, natch.

Grand entrance

With my matching grand entrance, carried in a stylized hammock by four good-looking men in Moroccan outfits, my very haute couture gown by fashion guru **Joe Salazar**, I believe I stole the show, or at least I did my darndest.

Fifty yards of pink satin and tulle were layered into thousands of pleats, creating a magnificent wave of pink shades. Topped with Swarovski crystals beaded on one side, Joe's work of art weighed a ton. Four of my hammock boys noticed the weight increase from the rehearsals. They also noticed my height increase, thanks to my Marge Simpson-tall beehive hairdo courtesy of the GL (Ganda Lang) team of **Patrick Rosas**.

Anton and I took turns in presenting the awardees. The most notable awards for me were those given to Joe Salazar (Most Admired Designer) and **Ben Chan** (Most Respected Entrepreneur) since I personally knew them both.

They were truly well-matched with their awards. I was also amazed at the wonderful prizes given to the awardees, such as watches from Technomarine, Baume et Mercier and Cartier. There was even a trip to the Amanpulo resort.

Of course, mentioning only two of the awardees and four of the prizes is a total disservice to the other very deserving people and sponsors. But I know that the ball will be adequately covered in other articles, and let's face it, I just don't have the entire list! So apologies to **Bea Valdes**, **Rosa Rosal**, Louis Vuitton, Bally, et al.

While on stage, I was just amazed at the amount of work the Rustan's Flower Shop did to transform the ballroom into a sheik's tent complete with red crystal candle holders and tassel. There was so much white fabric that I was reminded of the time when the artist **Christo** wrapped the Brandenburg Gate and other things.

STYLISH guests Carlos and Melissa Elizalde, Asian Tatler editor in chief Sharie Ross and Nissum Tse

PHILIPPINE Tatler editor in chief Anton San Diego

BEAUTIFUL show biz couple Richard Gomez and Lucy Torres in a Joe Salazar creation

COOL celebrity pair Aga Muhlach and Charlene Gonzalez in Joe Salazar

SEEN at the ball: Santi and Marilen Elizalde in Inno Sotto

WOMEN of style and substance (and cute husbands) Kerri Uytengsu and Margarita Delgado

PHILIPPPINE Tatler managing director Irene Martel Francisco

The stage was bursting with color from the blown-up entry photos. I just added my usual over-the-top, glitter-laden **Mich Dulce** pouf from start to finish. I guess my 5-year-old is definitely not lacking in the confidence department.

So much for that tiny digression. The Tatler Ball went so well, I am sure it will be difficult for poor **Irene Martel** and her editorial brain trust to top this next year. And poorer still, Master Joe will have to start thinking of designs that will make me even more radiant. And poorest of all, my dear Anton will have to come up with bigger prizes and gifts for me.

Strike a pose

My next hosting stint was not as glamorous but more soul-fulfilling and had a wider audience. Event No. 2: The Hello Kitty/Fujifilm Photo Exhibit at the Glorietta Activity Center. The photo awarding of 1,500 entries was linked to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which grants wishes and gifts to terminally ill kids.

Fully supporting generous Gift Gate boss **Virgie Ramos**, various show biz artists graced the Kitty show, making the kids extremely happy.

Jolina Magdangal and **Aiza Seguerra** both sang to their Wish kids, while **Dolphy** even gave a cash donation aside from the cellphone that his "kid" asked for.

gown, which I adorned with Fujifilm canisters and Russ Berrie flower mirrors. I completed the total effect with a fairy hat and wings.

My cohost, **Martin Nievera**, decided to come in a plain gray shirt when he found out we were to be on stage together. Why fight fire with fire, after all?

It was so kind and wonderful of Martin not to compete with my get-up and, more importantly, spend his whole afternoon there in between his Onstage shows. I still have to catch it, but I hear the show is excellent, especially if you like the **Michael Bublé**-style crooner repertoire.

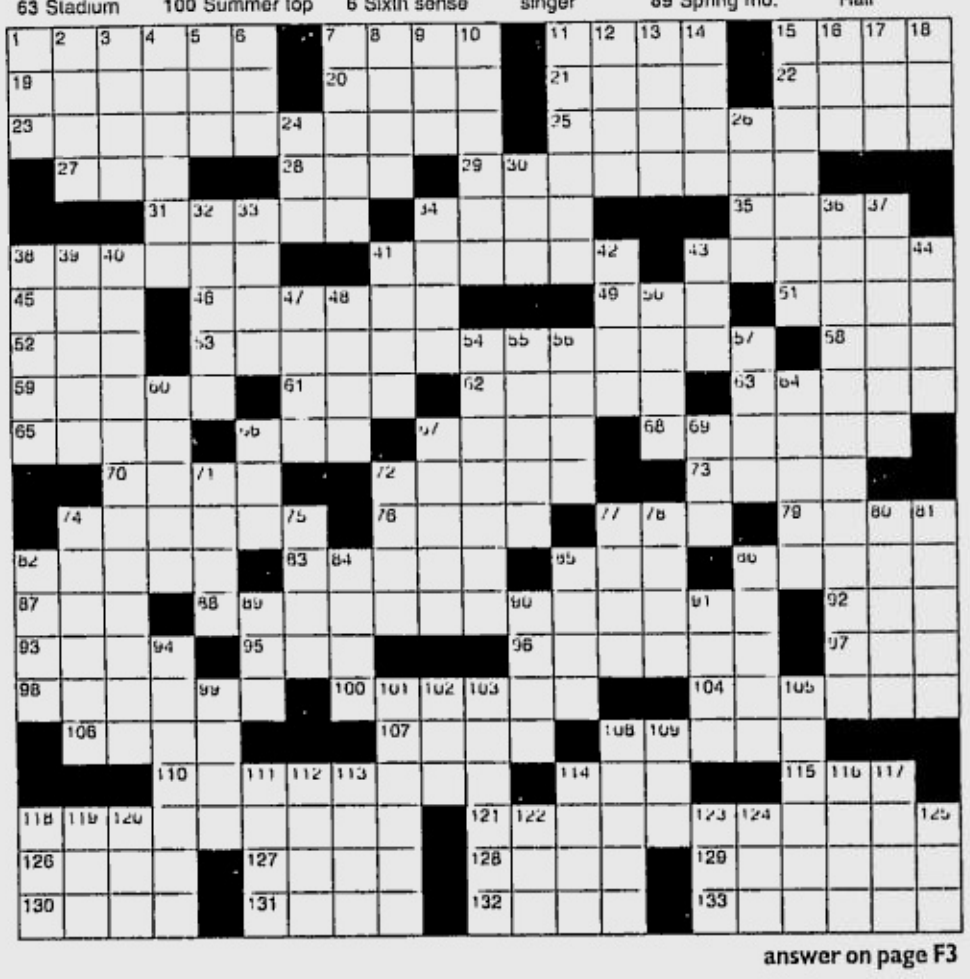
We both had a blast on stage fooling

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone — TEAM PLAY

ACROSS
1 Pen for hire
7 Iwo —
11 Boesky or Lendl
15 Enjoy taffy
19 Sign of spring
20 "Mila 18" author
21 Da Vinci's "— Lisa"
22 Atmosphere
23 The New Jersey —
25 The Arizona —
27 Benz chaser
28 Tijuana two
29 Tractable
31 Zenith's opposite
34 Reproduced
35 Yellowfin or albacore
38 Roman orator
41 Touched gently
43 Sulky
45 Hosp. area
46 Dated
49 Mil. address
51 Gray or Moran
52 — guitar
53 The Orlando —
58 Utter
59 Variety show
61 Spelling contest
62 Drags
63 Stadium
65 Ornery Olympian
66 Ford model
67 "Guarding —" ('94 film)
68 Spring bloomers
70 Florida county
72 Steve Martin's "Cruel —"
73 Stubbs or Strauss
74 "— as It Gets" ('97 film)
76 Does road work
77 Shorten a skirt
79 Certain Semite
82 Farm machine
83 Absurd
85 Paddle
86 San Antonio landmark
87 In favor of
88 The Miami —
92 Prom wear
93 Trac II competitor
95 Tighten the tent
96 Puts up wallpaper
97 Journal ending
98 Pennsylvania town
100 Summer top
104 More obtuse
106 "Comic Dictionary" author
107 Feudal superior
108 Armadillo feature
110 Topaz or tourmaline
114 Org. for the stranded
115 "60 Minutes" network
118 The San Diego —
121 The Utah —
126 Hummus holder
127 Afternoon gatherings
128 Lena of "Chocolat"
129 Barbecued
130 Inspector Dalgliesh
131 Long lunch?
132 Be still
133 Acted like a collie

DOWN
1 Sault — Marie, MI
2 Spelunker's spot
3 Destroy
4 A Mandrell sister
5 Ralph Kramden's vehicle
6 Sixth sense
7 One of twelve
8 Author Murdoch
9 Cambridge univ.
10 Classify
11 Stand in the way
12 Invalid
13 87 Across' opposite
14 Place for pews
15 Apprehend
16 Tint
17 Slip up
18 Existed
24 Infamous Amin
26 "So — You" ('77 hit)
30 Wager
32 Faced the day
33 Barbie, Ken, or Chucky
34 English spa
36 The Minnesota —
37 Indians and Indonesians
38 Revlon fragrance
39 More aloof
40 The Buffalo –
41 Leaf
42 Writer Roald
43 Calendar abbr.
44 "Only Time" singer
47 Obligation
48 Rushed
50 Word in a Proust title
54 Proposition
55 Desert refuges
56 To-do
57 Actor Robertson
60 Custom
64 Opponent
66 Composer Delibes
67 Macbeth, for one
69 City on the Danube
71 Campus digs
72 With 124 Down, Spider-Man's creator
74 Major arteries
75 Grim
77 Overdramatic thespians
78 Part of Q.E.D.
80 Cause a chuckle
81 Well-rounded athlete?
82 Boom or gaff
84 Imminent
85 Actor Epps
86 Selling point
89 Spring mo.
90 Did a Little bit?
91 A swan was her swain
94 Change diapers to despair
99 Northwestern st.
101 "The Tempest" king
102 Actor Chaney
103 Vibration
105 The gods guzzle it
108 Canvas cover?
109 Fond du —, WI
111 Legend
112 Hoskins in "Hook"
113 Glum drop?
114 Sale stipulation
116 Guitarist Charlie
117 "Graf —"
118 No. cruncher
119 Pot top
120 EWR letters
122 Suffix with glob
123 Gray matter?
124 See 72 Down
125 "Tonight Show" announcer Hall



answer on page F3

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twosome Bea Zobel Jr. and Jichico

LOVELY couple Derek and Mary Anne Arculli

ARE they dating? Oudine Santos and Jacques Dupasquier

MY star-struck, adoring UP fans at the Wild Vines Student Fashion Awards

TWO fairies and a prince: Sea Princess with Martin Nievera and Jolina Magdangal

OCCAN tent backdrop for a sheik and his chic family. Dennis Valdes and flower girl Annika in Inno Sotto

around with the teleprompter. Director **Rowell Santiago** was kept on his toes trying to keep our ad libbing wholesome and get us back to the story line. It was, after all, a family show! Now, he, too, knows I can't keep to a script!

One of the kids asked to see **Diether Ocampo** and wanted a bike. Apparently, he just wanted the bike, so I got to keep Diet for myself, or actually, I just got to keep to my diet!

Hello Kitty really knows how to bring out smiles in everyone, from kids to kids-at-heart. Tita Virgie and the rest of the celebrities brought so much happiness to the Wish kids. A kid named **Marvin** called me "pink *na diwata*" and thought I was a real fairy.

Spa host

My hosting stint didn't end there. Yesterday, famed basketball coach **Chot Reyes** and I were guest speakers at the first anniversary of Urban Spa.

Ces Drilon did her usual great job of hosting a talk on stress during the holidays. I should enroll in the Ces Drilon School of Hosting to learn more tips from her, especially if I get invited to host these events more regularly.

Was that all there was to Event No. 3? Of course, because I want to get in a few things about Event No. 4. I was asked recently to be a judge at the Wild Vines student fashion contest at the RCBC Auditorium. The students were so excited to see me and treated me like a celebrity.

Well, I just wanted to thank all those girls and gays from UP. You guys really touched me, telling me that you considered me a style icon.

My advice to all of you is, develop your own personal styles and carry them off with confidence!

Before I end this, let me just plug another event, where I won't be using my hosting skills but my *tindera* talents instead. The Assumption Bazaar will be held at the Hotel InterContinental today, so jump off your breakfast chairs and drive to Makati! Or if art is your fancy, head off to Antipolo for the art exhibit of **Sandra Fabie-Gfeller** at the Pintô Art Gallery. She is one talented and gorgeous lady.

PS to K: Hang in there. I am not forgetting you in my Baclaran prayers. I am still praying we are not only soul sisters but sisters-in-law!

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

BLUE bike for Wish kid Marvin from Diether Ocampo

HEART of gold and all the colors of the rainbow: Virgie Ramos with Martin Nievera

KING of comedy Dolphy shares his gift of laughter with the Make-A-Wish kids.

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Class	Day	Time	Starts on
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FCA31	Saturday	9am - 6pm	4-Oct
FCA32	Mon & Tues	9am - 1pm	6-Oct
FCA33	Mon & Tues	2pm - 6pm	6-Oct

Restaurant Service Pro Series			
Class	Day	Time	Starts on
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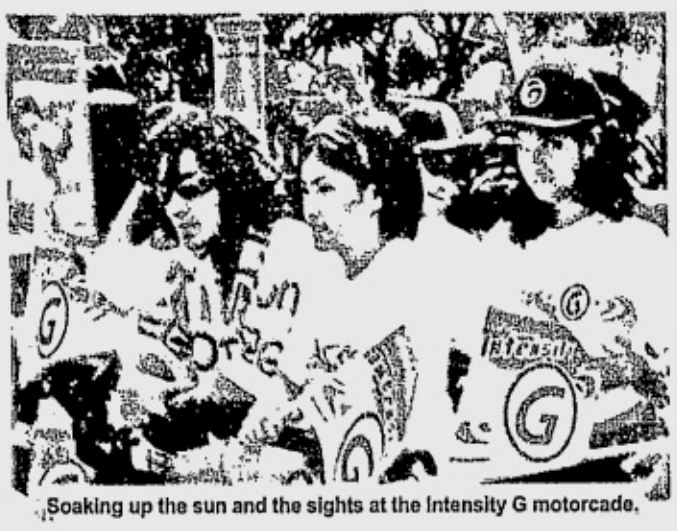
Great Globe Connections

An Intensity G Pilgrimage to Peñafrancia

The center of everyone's attention, the Virgin of Peñafrancia.


Soaking up the sun and the sights at the Intensity G motorcade.

Bicolanos get the hottest cellphone deals in Naga City at the Intensity G sales blitzes.

July tests his selling skills at the Globe booth.

Every third Saturday of September, thousands of Filipino devotees make a pilgrimage to the old city of Naga in Bicol province to venerate *Ina* – the Madonna of Peñafrancia. As in every major Philippine cultural and religious festival, Intensity G was there to join the Bicolanos as they paid tribute to their patroness and Queen, as well as to experience everything else the beautiful region of Bicol had to offer.

Even for the casual visitor to Naga City or Nueva Caceres as it was formerly known, it was apparent that this is a city whose pulse throbs to the sacred beat of religion and veneration for the Virgin of Peñafrancia. The city has a wealth of architecturally impressive churches, such as the centuries old Naga Cathedral, the Basilica Minore, the Peñafrancia Shrine and several others spread out far and wide across the city.

Like church carillons reminding everyone that the highlight of the festival will soon get underway, the *Intensity G motorcade* waded through the stream of traffic along Naga's winding streets conspicuously dressed in countless Globe banners and streamers. Naga residents both young and old, especially those making their last minute shopping at the marketplace, jostled and scrambled for Globe treats and premium merchandise that July, Globe's Hi-Memory SIM endorser was freely throwing at the crowd. The Intensity G motorcade stopped several times to let July chat with the friendly and hospitable residents and to oblige the throng of autograph seekers.

As soon as the revving motor engines screeched to a halt, July made a swift courtesy visit to local radio stations to promote Globe events and selling booths around the city. People who trooped to the *Intensity G sales blitzes* at LCC Mall, Robertson Mall, Bichara Mall and Plaza Real got premium treats for purchases of the latest Globe Handyphones, Globe Hi-Memory SIM and Globe Prepaid Call Cards. For the duration of the festival, Globe offered attractive postpaid plans where new G-Text and G-Mix subscribers got a FREE Nokia 2100 or Nokia 3530 respectively.

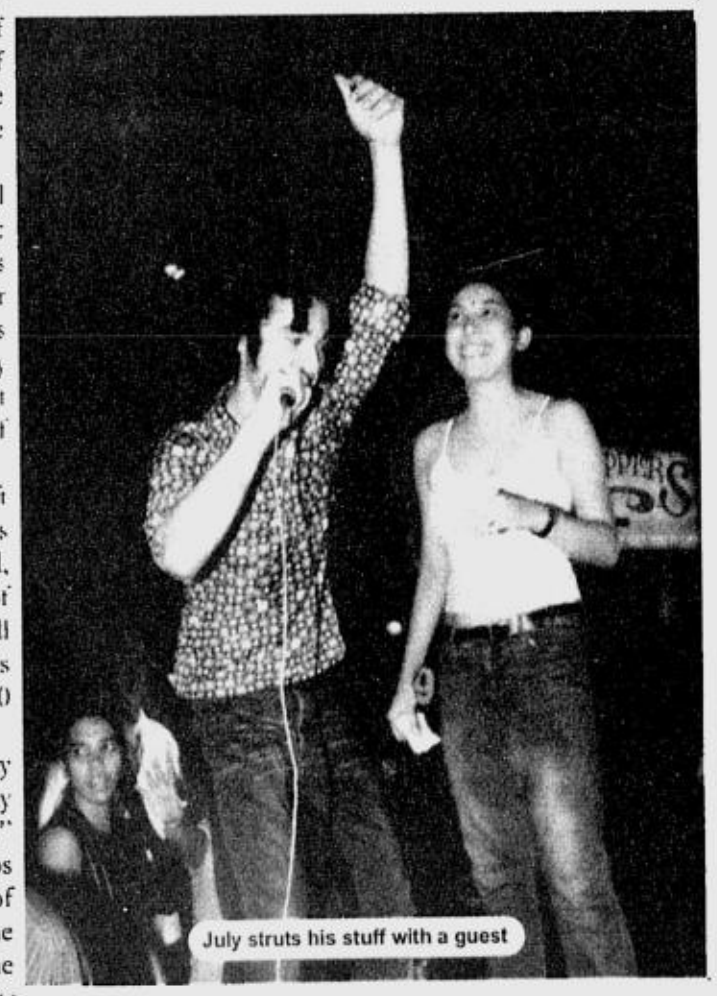
Said Globe Sales Manager for Southern Luzon, Alvin Quililan "The Intensity G sales blitzes struck a particular chord amongst Bicolanos. Booth attendants truly had their hands full with customers lining up to buy Globe products."

The highlight of the festival was the late afternoon *Fluvial Parade*. Bicolanos and devotees packed bridges and the riverside embankment to get a glimpse of the religious icon as it made its way from the Naga Cathedral to its shrine at the Basilica Minore. The processional pagoda was pulled by small boats tied to one another and helmed by oarsmen known as *camineros*. The Intensity G *camineros* captained this phalanx of able bodied male devotees. As soon as word got out that the image was already moving down Naga river, the crowd went into a wild frenzy, chanting "*Viva La Virgen!*" until their voices grew hoarse. Several jumped into the water with fervent attempts to touch the sacred pagoda. It was truly a moving and awe-inspiring religious spectacle.

As soon as evening fell on Naga City, people unwound at the many Gentxt parties located at various bars and restos around the city, such as the trendy Chili Peppers and Coco Leaf, Lolo's Bar, Planet B and Spice Island. The various Gentxt parties catered to diverse musical tastes providing top-notch entertainment to the entire city.

"We were extremely happy to have been given the chance to reach out to our loyal Globe Handyphone subscribers on the feast of the Virgin of Peñafrancia. We were proud to witness the exceptional and admirable traits of the Bicolanos: their deep religiosity and respect for tradition," summed up Globe's Senior Brand Manager, Reggie De Mesa.

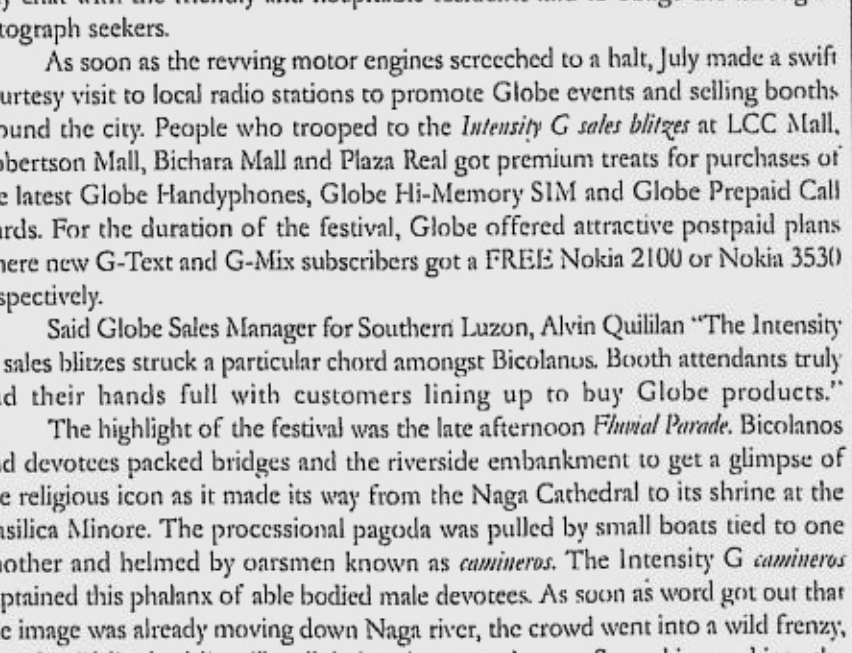
Intensity G rocks this boat!


July struts his stuff with a guest

A thrilled Gentxter takes a

One of the longest military parades in the world! Students and cadets from 300 schools in Bicol took the entire day to finish the march.

People flock to catch a glimpse of the Queen of Bicolandia.


Globe-sponsored camineros at the Peñafrancia Fluvial Parade.

5 lessons from 5 great chefs

By Mina Elechicon
Contributor

IT seems everyone wants to be a chef these days. Chefs have become rock-star popular.

They host their own TV shows on the Food Network, publish beautiful cookbooks and create edible art for the rich and famous. A career as a chef is an increasingly attractive choice for many.

Wanting to find out what it takes to become a chef, I went to school recently at The Culinary Institute of America (CIA) at Greystone in Napa Valley. I took their Career Discovery programs "designed for adults considering a culinary career and who meet admission requirements for their bachelor's and associate degree programs."

Two of their more interesting programs were "An Introduction to the Professional Kitchen" and "Developing Professional Skills."

My classmates were an interesting and unexpected mix, including a San Francisco homicide detective; a former ad agency executive; a petroleum engineer; several Silicon Valley types in-between jobs, a couple of retirees, a mother and her daughter; a lady "sponsored" by her fiancé to ensure her "capabilities" were developed before they married.

Classroom lectures began at 2 p.m. By 4 p.m., we had to be at our kitchen stations to cook 6-9 dishes for evaluation by 7 p.m. These culinary creations would then be our dinner.

By 8:30 p.m., we had to wash up and clean our stations before heading home. We were physically exhausted every night (from standing all day, lifting the heavy pots, scurrying for ingredients, working in front of the hot stoves). Nonetheless, learning was a fun experience.

We made many mistakes, and while our pride was hurt, our fingers were not, as safety, particularly in handling knives, was a major

5 LESSONS/ H2

TASTE TEST. Chef Jimmy is pleased with our dinner creations, and is about to sample them.

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The 16-day, 24 session course will be handled by chef-restaurateurs and consultant and will be limited to 25 students. Enrollment includes ingredients, chef's jacket, manual and chef's kit. **Classes will start Oct. 04. Enrollment is ongoing. For inquiries and reservations, call 726-9326 or 725-5089 and look for Marilyn or Glady.**

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health FITNESS

CHEF Bill (right) examines and evaluates the culinary creations in one of our classes in "Developing Professional Skills"

THE AUTHOR (fourth from left) with Chef Jimmy (toque-less guy behind her) and other "future chefs" in the "An Introduction to the Professional Kitchen" class

5 lessons from 5 great chefs

From page H1

and much-emphasized concern. But our success was in the fabulous dinners that resulted every night.

Every day brought a surprising mix of cuisines—Mediterranean, Mexican, Vietnamese, Chinese, French, African, American—soups, starters, salads and entrees. We shared our daily output with the Baking and Pastry students, who contributed their sinful dessert creations to round out our superb dinners.

Our chef-instructors were Jimmy Corwell and Bill Briwa. They were so enthusiastic and inspiring that all of us were convinced that a culinary career was the only one to have.

On one memorable weekend, I also attended a Celebrity Cooking Event at Copia, the American Center for Wine, Food & the Arts at Napa Valley. There, I met the famous Jacques Pépin and his fellow deans of the French Culinary Institute of New York (FCI): André Soltner of Lutèce and Alain Sailhac of Le Cirque, both celebrated establishments in New York.

So what have I learned from these great chefs?

Lesson 1: There is no great meal unless it is shared with family or friends.

Pépin, cookbook author, TV personality and dean of special programs at FCI, said, "Food, for me, is inseparable from sharing. It has been so in the kitchen where I have spent most of the last 45 years. Sharing recipes, trying out new ideas, tasting together and enjoying a bottle of wine, always produces the greatest meals.

"George Bernard Shaw once said, 'There is no love sincerest than the love of food', and that love of cooking and of eating is forever present and part of the essence of the true cook. Nothing is more gratifying for a cook than to see people enjoying his food.

"Especially remember that eating, as well as cooking, should be pleasurable and guiltless. To paraphrase Voltaire, try to imagine how tiresome eating and drinking would be if God had not made them a pleasure as well as a necessity."

Lesson 2: Love what you do.

"Have you ever heard of a chef who retired rich?" asked Soltner, the legendary master chef to the rich and famous at New York's Lutèce. "When the restaurant opened in 1961, I was behind the stove. In 33 years, I took four days off, two when my father died and two when my brother died."

Every day he had to get up at six and work past midnight. Lutèce was closed Sundays, and in the winter Soltner would drive 120 miles to go skiing, drive back to New York for a little sleep before going back to work Monday morning.

"My wife Simone complained—I had been working at Lutèce so long. My knees started to give way, so we sold the restaurant seven years ago" (He remains part owner.)

This is the life of a celebrated chef who decided to become one when he was 15, a James Beard Lifetime Achievement winner, a 1968 recipient of the Meilleur Ouvrier de France (France's highest distinction), and one who still competes in chefs' ski races at the age of 70.

James A. Corwell IV was chef-owner of three restaurants as well as culinary consultant for several golf and country clubs in South Carolina, Ohio and Georgia.

"Sitting in a cubicle or at a desk every day takes you away from the contact, the 'family' of your crew," he said. "The CIA instructors, they've been here for years. So when I learned of an opening, it was like a dream come true for me!"

He's back in a fabulous $500,000 kitchen with a loyal, earnest and really hard-working crew (mostly of Hispanic origin), teaching enthusiastic student chefs from all over the world, and doing what he loves best—cooking.

Lesson 3: The food you cook reflects what you are.

"Whether you want to be or not, you are 'in' the food you prepare," Pépin observed. "In the hands of five different cooks, the same recipe for a simple roast chicken will produce five different results. The bird may be more cooked, less cooked, overly browned, excessively spicy or too bland—each dish will reflect the character, nature and mood of the cook."

Sailhac, first chef to receive four stars from The New York Times, and executive vice president of the FCI, said, "In a market, you see color. It talks to me, it talks to all chefs. You see form, and then volume comes next. That's how you decide what to buy.

"My best advice is to cook with what you feel inside each day, when you see the ingredients. Cooking with my art, cooking with my feeling. We use our five senses to find out if the food is cooking and singing. When the pan is hot, you pour in the oil. Then wait. Listen to the melody of the oil. Put in the onions. Listen. You hear it come up to a crescendo."

Lesson 4: Perfection is the only acceptable benchmark.

"Give your best at all times," Chef Jimmy reminded us. Never release anything to the dining room unless you've looked at it, or tasted it. Clean up the sides of the plate. Garnish accordingly. And when it comes back uneaten or played with, then something is wrong. You didn't do it right. There's no such thing as "good enough" when receiving ingredients or plating a dish.

I learned to respect my fellow cooks, our equipment, the wonderful herbs and spices in the CIA garden (many of which I had never seen before), even the floor of the kitchen itself—that a floor deserves as much attention and respect as the edge of my knife blade—because it's all part of what makes a safe, well-functioning kitchen.

The CIA focuses first on excellence of culinary education, quality ingredients and equipment, and raising the standards of dress and behavior among its instructors and students.

When Ferdinand Metz became CIA president in 1980 (at the main campus in Hyde Park, New York), he changed "just about everything." And in the ensuing decades, the professional kitchen was no longer perceived as a blue-collar man's world. Chefs, both women and men, became not just respectable but glamorous celebrities.

CHEF Jacques Pépin—his exuberance is inspirational.

And Metz's school has influenced not only cuisine but also industry standards of dress, professional decorum and values. It is, indeed, The World's Premier Culinary College!

Lesson 5: Success comes from yourself and your will to always be better.

Worrying about what others do or think of your work is a waste of time, energy and concentration. Know yourself, and be yourself; accept your strengths and harness your skills.

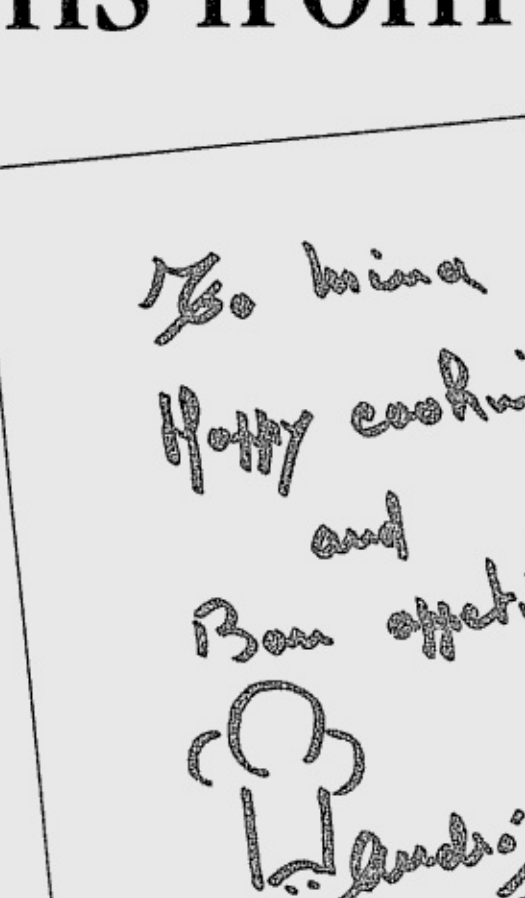
Location, liquidity and capital, marketing, business management, reliable staff, quality food—these do play significant roles in a restaurant's profitability but if there is no aspiring and inspiring chef, there won't be any success.

William Briwa graduated from the CIA in 1980, worked in Thomas Keller's acclaimed The French Laundry and Domain Chandon in Napa, and was executive chef of the CIA's Wine Spectator Greystone Restaurant in 1997-98.

Chef Bill said, "Pretense can be disastrous. And it doesn't make for longevity of restaurants. The French Laundry was great. Everyone was there because they wanted to. It was quiet and organized. It was clean! Everything was labeled. Everyone was dedicated."

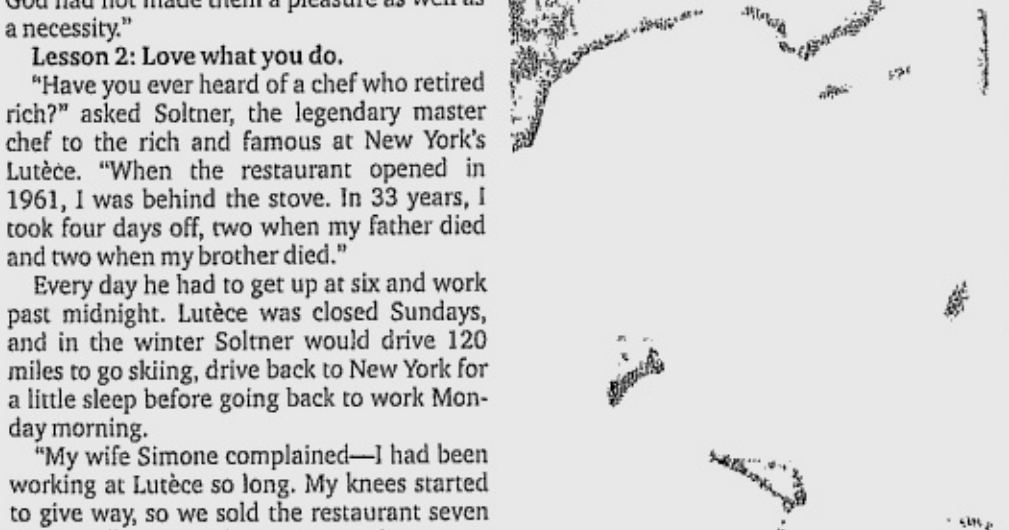
Sailhac reminded us, "Chefs can make mistakes, or else you don't learn. We, learn from everybody, in other chefs' kitchens."

Andrew Dornenburg, currently sous chef at Rosemarie's in TriBeCa, author and former chef at top restaurants in NYC and Boston, said it best: "I've come to recognize that everything I don't know about cooking—the techniques I've yet to learn, the ingredients I've yet to discover, the dishes I've yet to taste—represents not a deficiency, but a syllabus for a lifetime of learning and experiencing and enjoying that will not only contribute to my development as a chef, but will continue to enrich my life every step of the way. I can't imagine a better way to spend a career, or a lifetime."

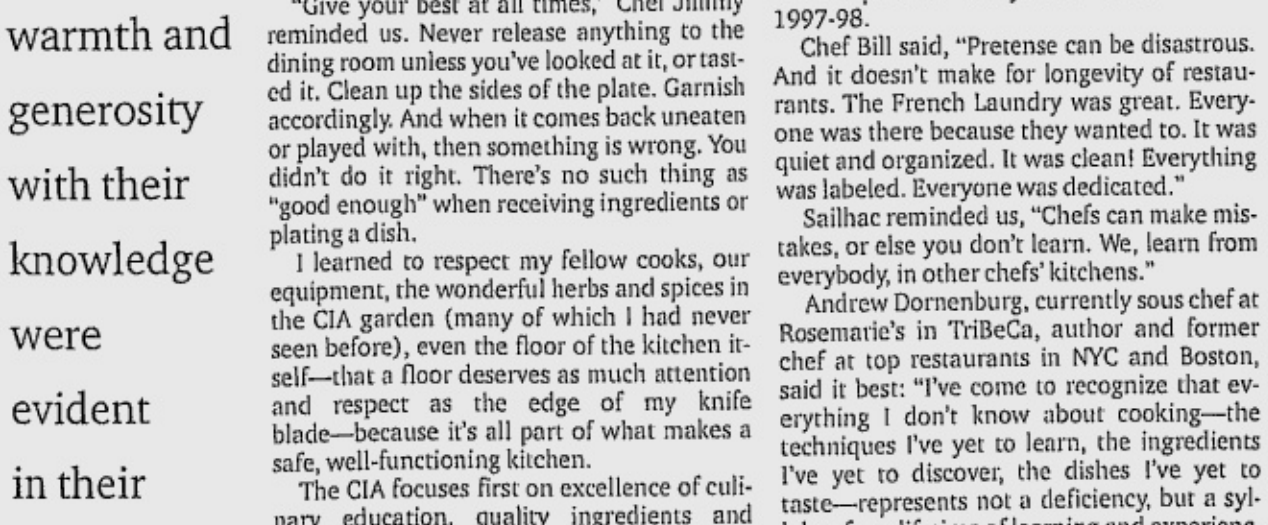


CHEF André Soltner on the cover of his book, which he signed for the author (top). Note the toque.

Their passion, sense of humor, warmth and generosity with their knowledge were evident in their conversation and in their cooking



THE CULINARY Institute of America at Greystone, viewed from the arched entryway



THE BEAUTIFUL old school sits on a hill, bordered by stone walls with an arched entrance and a mountain at its back.

'King's' descendants return to their roots

CEBU
CEBU

Jaime Picornell

SOME time in the middle of the 19th century, **Fernando Escaño** left his native Zambales and went to Leyte to trade in *abaca*. He moved south from Tacloban to Maasin, siring several children before he met and married **Agustina Faelnar**. Once married, Don **Fernando** and Doña **Agustina** moved farther south to her hometown, Malitbog. They had 15 children, 10 of whom survived to adulthood.

From Malitbog, the couple and their children ruled a business empire that included shipping, *abaca* and copra trading, extensive plantations, and Cebu's Visayan Electric Company. The people of Malitbog called Don Fernando "*hari*" and indeed he "reigned" like a king.

The imposing Casa Escaño along Sogod Bay and facing east, was as grand as a palace. An acacia tree-lined avenue led from it to the parish church. The house was close to the town plaza, venue for grand celebrations, bullfights and elaborate *zarzuelas*, among others.

Feasting in style

Shiploads of guests from Cebu would arrive in Malitbog to participate in the *zarzuelas*, dance all night at costume balls, and participate in elegant dinners that chefs planned weeks in advance.

In the 1920s, one of the family scions, Don **Agustin Escaño,** built the Villa Margarita, named after his adored wife, **Margarita Javier.** It still stands to this day, though the formal gardens in front with trim hedges, fountains and giant white *calachuchi* trees that seemed to bloom all year round are gone. But the orchard at the back remains.

The house's exteriors and interiors were as magnificent as a European imperial villa. Don Agustin himself did the Art Noveau motifs, a different one for every room.

Through the years, the Escaño clan grew, and though several remain in Malitbog many of them are now in Cebu, Manila, neighboring provinces and other parts of the world. The nostalgia for Malitbog and family solidarity have lasted, even intensified in recent times. In the mid 1980s, third and fourth generation family members in Cebu decided to organize a reunion and trace their genealogical tree.

The results were a celebration held every three or four years and a book on the Escaño family that was constantly updated. A reunion took place recently, with Malitbog unanimously chosen as venue.

Sentimental journey

More than 230 Escaño descendants walked the plank to board a ship that would take them on a sentimental journey to their ancestral roots. Months before, **Tico Aldanese, Angel Veloso Jr., Chichi Villarica, Jimmy Escaño, John Joe de Leon, Dingko Escaño, Ed Gonzalez, Frankie Aberasturi** and several others held a series of meetings to work out every detail of the event.

As soon as the ship set sail, the partying began. Cocktails and pica-pica were served. Music filled the ship, with **Irene Escaño Yap** and her brothers who came from all over—**Gabriel, Leo, Clem** and **Manolet**—leading the singing. **Cheling Sala** also joined in. **Benjie Diola**, who choreographed the "Palabas for Malitbog," asked the Sala ladies to dance one after the other—**Millie, Fe, Caring** and **Mary.**

The ship arrived in Malitbog at sunrise. A large crowd of relatives at the pier gave the arrivals a warm welcome. **Ma. Pilar Picornell Escaño** volunteered as tour guide, bringing the visitors to **Matoy Escaño's** house, and then to the Aberasturi ancestral home They went on a look-see of Casa Escaño. **Johnny** and Frank Aberasturi spruced up the ruins and the *bodega* to look like a five-star hotel ballroom.

Movie setting

You see, Casa Escaño burned down, an event reported in the New York Times, not just because it was the setting of the romantic adventure novel, "American Guerrilla in the Philippines," whose heroine was an Escaño princess. Casa Escaño was once one of the most important *abaca* hemp warehouses in the world.

The tour continued with a visit to Don **Lorenzo** and Doña **Piling Escaño's** White House, and to the Villa Margarita where **Ramon Escaño** entertained them with chocolate-laced *suman*. It was soon time for a picnic lunch inside tents or under the giant acacias fronting Casa Escaño.

In the afternoon, the group visited the huge domed Escaño Mausoleum, restored to its original splendor by the Escaño Foundation. **Chichoy Aberasturi** did a great job supervising the work. Everyone admired the life-size Pieta in white marble, and the exquisitely carved Last Supper, also in white Carrara marble.

The evening gala at Casa Escaño was great fun. The stage's backdrop was a huge painting of the family crest whose provenance is Huesca in the Kingdom of Aragon (Spain). It showed a golden castle with turrets against a blue background.

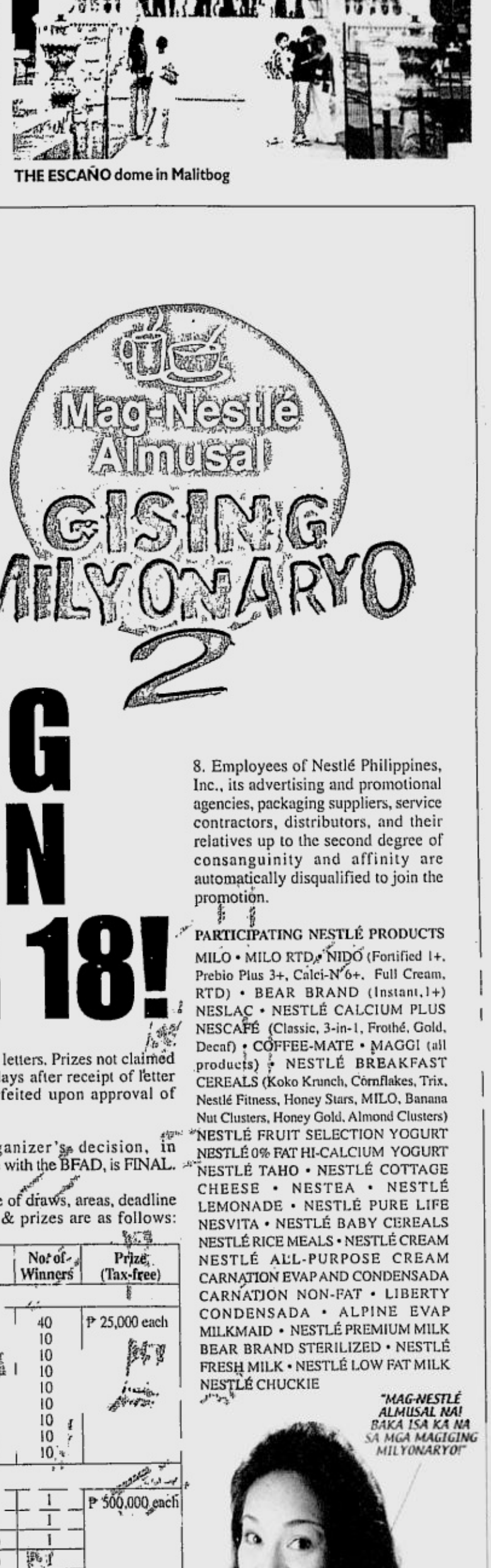
Mariant Escaño Villegas arrived from Dumaguete with her brood to perform a series of dances. The Manila group did a take-off from "Grease" and the Cebu gang did a number from "Chicago." Those from the United States made everyone join their line dance while family members based in Malitbog and Maasin did a song medley.

If there had been a piano **Ingrid Sala Santamaria** would have gladly played a sonata or concerto. Southern Leyte Gov. **Rosette Yñiguez Lerias** said nothing beat an Escaño celebration, and she'd been to countless.

The threat of a typhoon hitting some part of the Visayas had everyone boarding the ship sooner than expected. When they awoke, surprise, surprise, they were still in Malitbog. The anchors got entangled. Only **Ed Gonzalez's** expert instructions for proper maneuvers (short of diving into the dark waters himself) allowed the ship to sail.

Back in Cebu, the intrepid Escaños are asking when they'll do it again.

THE ESCAÑO dome in Malitbog



CHOCOLATE-LACED *suman*, anyone? Seated are Gloria Escaño and Piluling Aldanese with grandson Patrick Grosson. Standing: Pet Escaño Misa, Miren Aberasturi, Maria Paloma Angel Veloso Jr. and Ed Gonzalez

BENEATH the wedding photo of Emeterio and Dolores Escaño in 1938 at Villa Margarita are Jolie Veloso, Ma. Pilar Escaño, Fe Sala Villarica, Ramon Escaño, Rosebud Sala and Gerry Richards.

Magandang disposisyon.
Nakuha sa

Charlene, Andres and Atasha Muhlach have discovered new Prokids! Now with cottony air-flow cover, cottony magic tapes and soft foam waistband - no wonder they're so comfortable!

Time to change.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2003 PHILIPPINE DAILY IN

Sunday LIFESTYLE

CASTILLO-CABRERA NUPTIALS

Brash *young lawyer* wins his suit

NEWLYWEDS Jomar and Marica Castillo slice through Heny Sison's heavenly fondant creation.

She couldn't decide whether he was trying to be cute or was just desperate for the food on her plate

STORY ON PAGE 12

TWINS CULINARY KITCHEN **LEARN COOKING & BAKING**

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BEST SELLING BAKED GOODS : Lemon Square, Moist Chocolate Cake, Food 4 D Gods, Frosted Fudge Brownies, Mini-Banoffee Pie, Chocolate Chip Cookies

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Oct. 10 or 18 or 29 or Nov. 7 or 13 1:30-5:30pm P850
FILIPINO HOLIDAY DISHES : Roasted Liempo, Sizzling Bulalo, Eggplant Salad, Spl. Molo Soup, Chicken Pastel, Pichi-Pichi (plain & pandan)

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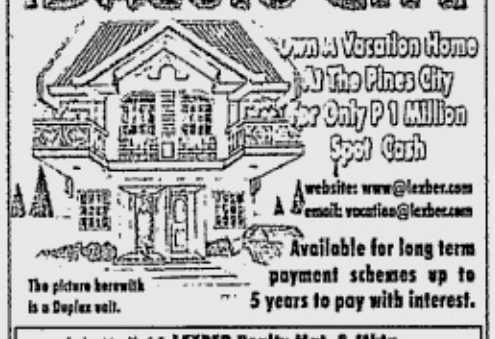

The picture herewith is a Duplex unit.

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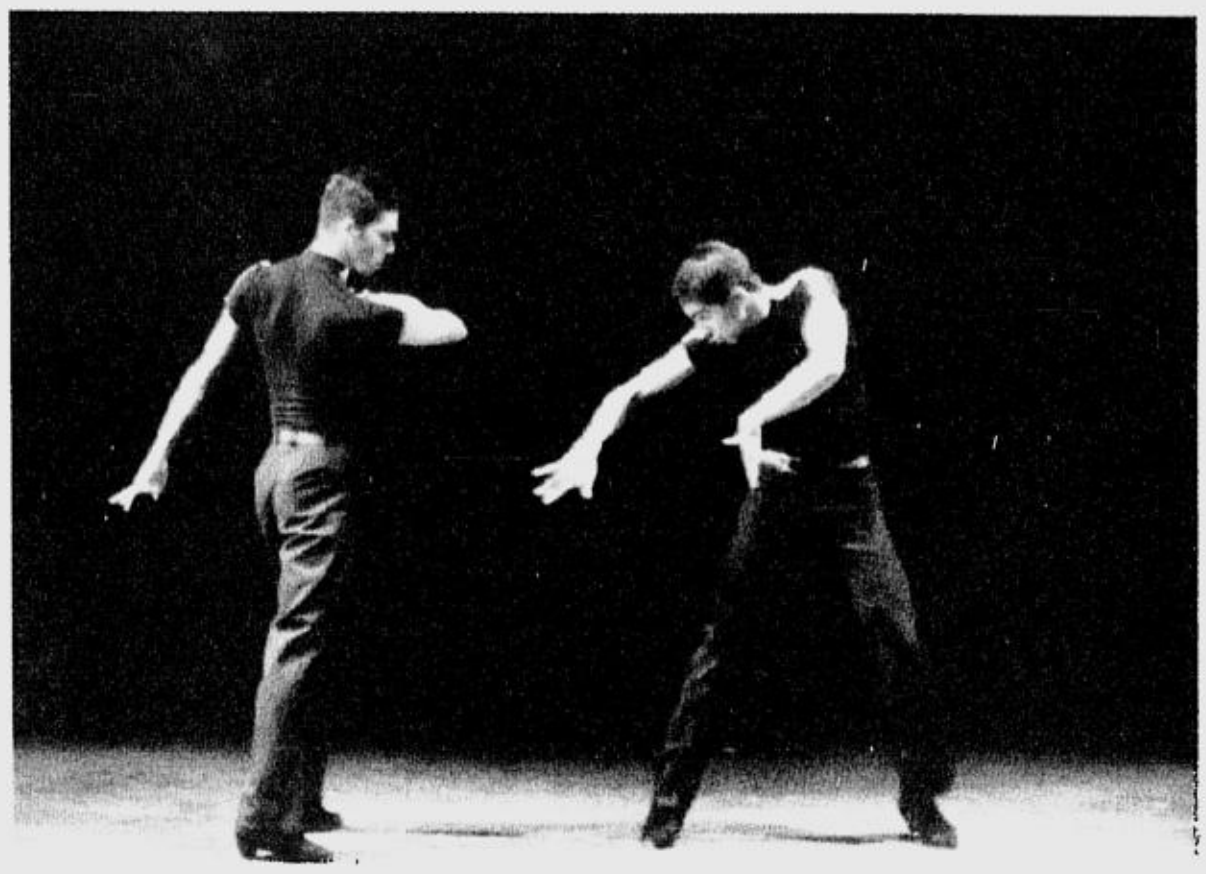
FLAMENCO THRILL AT MERALCO!



Spanish Flamenco where dance, song and guitar altogether, as an art, tell tales of life, death, joy, pain, love and freedom.

All these elements will come alive in Concierto Flamenco slated on October 3 and 4, 8 p.m. at the Meralco Theater. Nuevo Ballet Español, winner of the Best Flamenco Company in 2000, will offer the Filipino audience a taste of the authentic Spanish art.

Formed in 1996 by multi-awarded flamenco artists Ángel Rojas and Carlos Rodríguez, Nuevo Ballet Español have demonstrated their remarkable form and talent all over Europe and America. On their United States tour, the group appeared in a television special, which was recorded by Sony.

Concierto Flamenco is the hightlight of this year's Spanish Festival, ¡Fiesta! Spanish Festival for Culture and the Arts, organized by Instituto Cervantes and the Spanish Embassy.

Tickets for Concierto Flamenco are available at major National Book Store branches, Robinson's Department Store, Tower Records, Music Museum, Greenbelt 1 Ticket Booth Cinema Lobby, Glorieta 1 Ticket Booth Cinema Lobby and on the TicketWorld website www.ticketworld.com.ph. Call 8915610 for inquiries and reservations.

A 50% discount awaits Instituto Cervantes students! Please call Instituto Cervantes at 526-1482 to 85 and ask for Liza.

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the Supermeat

WITH the bride's famille: Maria and Melissa Mina, cousin Carol Cabrera, sister Beth, mom Zenaida, dad Ruben, grandpa Arsenio Ortega, brother Armand, brother-in-law Victorino Mina with sons Lance and Gabby

WITH the groom's famille: sisters Dinah and Dr. Tricia C. Franada, mom Dr. Teresita, dad Octavio, brother Chris and brother-in-law Dr. Bernie Franada

Brash *young lawyer* wins his suit

CLOSE pal: New Yorker Ana Esperanza

CHARMING famille friend Dr. Don Duero

NORTHWEST Airlines ITI GM Gina Campos with her super nice hubby Jan

Text by Maurice Arcache
Photos by Alex Van Hagen on Kodak Max

"SO, when are we gonna go out?" Jomar Castillo, then an Ateneo de Manila University law student, asked on the first day he met her, not wanting to waste time. It was his perfect opportunity. He finally found her tall figure standing alone in a party, so he cozied up to her and, so confidently, started picking at the cocktail food on her plate.

Shocked at his brashness, she couldn't decide whether he was trying to be cute in an annoying way, or just too desperate for the food on her plate.

Later on, she found out it was both—he was trying to be cute and and he was desperate. Desperate for her number, that is. Asked who she worked for, she quipped with a twinkle in her eyes, "Northwest Airlines. Marry me and you'll fly for free." Jomar was floored.

Jomar had just been introduced that evening to pretty-pretty Marica Cabrera, a fresh graduate from the University of the Philippines' College of Mass Communication who has just landed a job with the world-class carrier. Introductions were made by Jomar's law school classmates, Jose "Dong" Feliciano III and Trixie Reyes, Marica's super pal. After that evening, Jomar's gang quietly cheered that he had finally found "his match."

In October 2001, Jomar decided to forego a family trip to Europe at the last minute just to fly with Marica to San Francisco and Canada. By this time, Marica, who was frequently on the dean's list at the Ateneo Graduate School of Business, had just received her MBA degree. Jomar, on the other hand, was already a fast-rising associate at the prestigious Quisumbing Torres Law Office.

Sunset proposal

After a trip to Napa Valley, Jomar decided to drive Marica to the historic Cliff House Restaurant (built in 1863 by an American millionaire) on the old Great Highway. With a perfect California sunset for backdrop, Jomar surprised Marica with a sparkling diamond ring and popped the question.

Super shocked, Marica cried quietly, alarming the cool and composed young lawyer. Time stood still for Jomar until she finally said, "Yes." He had finally won the girl who close pals at Northwest and the Ateneo Graduate School relentlessly teased as the "heartbreaker." At work, close pals said she was the one who would receive gifts, stuffed toys, cakes and gigantic floral arrangements with co-workers having a field day guessing who sent what.

As soon as Jomar asked her parents for Marica's hand in marriage, the bride, who now handles the mega public relations and events management for Northwest Airlines, drew up a timeline and became her own wedding coordinator.

JOMAR and Marica exchange a sweet kiss after the ceremony at the majestic Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat Church.

HEAR, hear, hear, the gang's all here. The happy groom (third from left) with Egmidio "Dax" Tanjuatco Jr., Anselmo Sinjian, Manila councilor Edward Maceda, Philip Bautista, Job Ambrosio and banker Dave Puyat

HOTSHOT TABLE. The couple with PNB chair Francisco Dizon and wife Joyce of Sunstar Publishing Group; St. Luke's president Jose Ledesma with wife Evelyn, and sponsor Dr. Mario Aquino

The liturgical celebration was held at the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat at San Beda College. The Abbey, famous for the breathtaking paintings on its ceiling and its neo-optic architectural design, is always a favorite of wedding photographers.

On her wedding day, the bride marched along a petal-covered aisle to Josh Groban's "You're Still You" as interpreted by a tenor from the String Minstrels. The radiant bride was a sight to remember in an exquisite duchess satin grown with delicate wheat-design embroidery. The bodice was embellished with Swarovski beads, superbly executed by premier bridal designer Carla Sibal. To complement the gown, topnotch makeup artist Kei Pagtakhan made a detailed Swarovski crystal-studded hairpiece. Also interesting were the embroidered and Swarovski crystal-studded shoes, which the bride got from Nine West's bridal edition series in New York.

Teary-eyed parents

For her bouquet, the bride opted to carry a refreshing hand-tied bunch of delicate white tulips and green tuber roses by Francis Hen Jr. The parents of the bride, businessman Ruben Cabrera and Zenaida Ortega C., couldn't help but get teary-eyed when the Abbey's doors opened to reveal their daughter's veiled silhouette.

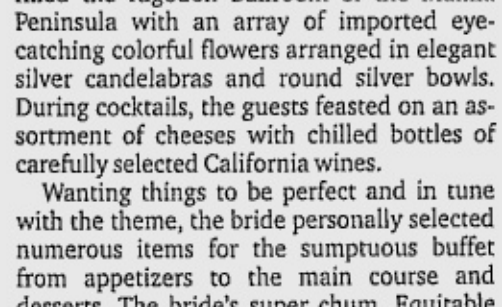
The entourage, also dressed by Carla Sibal, carried a selection of blue hydrangeas, roses and carnations complementing their blue and celadon green gowns. Maid of honor was the bride's statuesque sister Beth Cabrera, while bridesmaids were San Frascisco-based cousin Carol Cabrera, GMA NMI's Joy Go and niece Melissa Mina. Cutie-pie flower girl was Michaela Concepcion Reyes, daughter of Michelle Concepcion and Eric Reyes.

Fresh orchids were given to the female sponsors that included Justice Josefina Salonga, Dr. Carmen Narciso, Ma. Teresa Aragon, former Mayor Mel Lopez's wife Concepcion, Alice Gonzales, Gracia Ona, Alfonsita Ramos and Tessie Ona. Male sponsors included distinguished lawyers David Puyat and Lucas Nunag, top ophthalmologist Mario Aquino, Rep. Egmidio Tanjuatco, maritime magnum Capt. Edgardo Gualberto, retired Philippine Airlines pilot Capt. Teofilo Calilmag, Ignacio Ong and Mel Lontok.

Nervously waiting was Jomar, with his best man and brother, Chris Castillo, beside him. As the groom made his entrance with his parents, Octavio Castillo and Teresit Alday C., the groomsmen that included Peter Calilmag, Ronald Quizon and Armand Cabrera applauded with the audience. Ring and coin bearers were the bride's adorable nephews, Gabriel Misael and Lance Raphael Mina.

The members of the liturgical entourage were Matthew Lloren, newscaster Amelyn Zapanta, Melissa Garong and writer/magazine editor Bebeth Timbol. Lending a magnificent helping hand during the church rites were husband and wife Ben and Cherry Torrechante.

During the ceremony officiated by the head of the Ateneo Novitiate, Fr. Jun Borres, SJ, the couple exchanged a unique set of Piaget-inspired "Possession" rings of white gold and diamonds. At the end of the ceremony, instead of the traditional petal shower the newlyweds were greeted with multi-colored bursts of string confetti and delicate "snow" sprays.



MY best friend's wedding: The bride gets a hug from favorite pals Tim Yap, Tani Lloren and Bebeth Timbol, who hosted the programme at the reception.

Wine country motif

Over 250 guests gushed at the "California" and "wine country" theme executed by premier floral designer Francis Hen Jr., who filled the Rigodon Ballroom of the Manila Peninsula with an array of imported eye-catching colorful flowers arranged in elegant silver candelabras and round silver bowls. During cocktails, the guests feasted on an assortment of cheeses with chilled bottles of carefully selected California wines.

Wanting things to be perfect and in tune with the theme, the bride personally selected numerous items for the sumptuous buffet from appetizers to the main course and desserts. The bride's super chum, Equitable PCIBank's Tani Lloren, supervised the entire reception.

To the delight of the guests, individual tables were decorated with Ghirardelli Chocolate treats, reminding them of the couple's love for San Francisco. The five-tier wedding cake was by renowned Heny Sison.

Hot-shot guests included heavyweights from banking, politics, media and legal profession like Philippine National Bank chair Francisco Dizon with his wife Joyce, St. Luke's Medical Center president Joe Ledesma with wife Evelyn, top businessman Herman Montenegro. Former Manila mayor Mel Lopez and incumbent councilor Edward Maceda were joined by Quisumbing Torres partners Romeo Salonga, Gilbert Zerrudo and Reggie Quimbo.

Super pals from Northwest Airlines included marketing and communications manager Adin Gonzales, ITI workaholic GM Gina Campos with her hubby Jan C., and members of Northwest-ITI's superb sales and marketing team who partied till early dawn. Popular group 17:28 and acoustic master Inky de Dios serenaded guests with various musical numbers.

Principal sponsors and chosen close pals received exquisite Swarovski crystal pieces specially flown in from Austria no less.

True to her word when they first met, the newlyweds jetted immediately after the wedding to snow-filled Lake Tahoe then breezy San Francisco, en route to New York for their wonderful honeymoon via Northwest's superb World Business class, naturallement!

Remember, *palanggas*, "the more we serve Jesus Christ, the less we serve ourselves."

WITH their principal sponsors: Gracia Ona, Tessie Ona, Justice Josefina Salonga, Alfonsita Ramos, pathologist Carmen Narciso, Lydia Aquino (proxy for Alice Gonzales), former first lady of Manila Concepcion Lopez and Ma. Teresa Aragon, lawyers Lucas Nunag and David Puyat, maritime top gun Capt. Edgardo Gualberto, Rep. Egmidio Tanjuatco, PAL's Capt. Teofilo Calilmag, Ignacio Ong, sought-after ophthalmologist Mario Aquino and Montreal-based uncle Mel Lontok

WITH bridesmaids Joy Go, Carol Cabrera and Melissa Mina, groomsmen Armand Cabrera, Peter Calimag and Ronald Quizon, and ring and coin bearers Gabby and Lance Mina

'Ina' devotees celebrate her feast day

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

THE PEOPLE waited patiently along the banks of the Naga River for the barge carrying Our Lady of Peñafrancia coming from Tabuco Bridge. She was accompanied on the barge by male devotees.

The distance from Tabuco Bridge to the Basilica landing from where she was carried to the Basilica Pavilion for the High Mass was about three kilometers. Papal Nuncio of New Guinea, Archbishop Tito Yllana, officiated at the concelebrated Mass.

We sat on benches in front of the house of Evelyn Soriano with candles tucked into the earth ready to be lighted when the Virgin's barge arrived. People looked out of windows of houses across from us, waiting to wave their handkerchiefs in welcome.

Finally, the small boats, numbering about 200, started to appear, pulling the barge that carried the Virgin. By exactly 5:30 p.m. she appeared, two priests holding her lest she fall. The whole riverbank was filled with lighted candles. White hankies were waved while a man on the barge shouted: "Viva *Ina*, patroness of Bicol, Our Lady of Peñafrancia."

The shout echoed along the stretch of the riverbank. In that emotional moment, I quickly whispered prayers because it was said that when you saw her and talked to her, your prayers would be answered.

Like a seed

The devotion to Our Lady of Peñafrancia was planted like a seed in the hearts of Nagueños in the 17th century when Miguel Robles de Cuvarrubias came to Naga, then called Nueva Caceres, as a seminarian from the University of Santo Tomas. In Caceres, he was ordained priest and subsequently became the parish priest.

As a young boy, Miguel became very sick. He asked the Virgin of Peña de Francia to heal him promising that he would become a priest and propagate her devotion.

Fr. Miguel had an image of the Virgin carved. According to oral history, a dog was killed and its blood poured on the image to give it color. The body of the dog was thrown into the river. Taking pity on it, Fr. Miguel asked the Virgin to bring it back to life. To the amazement of everyone, the dog was seen bouncing from the river and running towards the priest. This was the first miracle of the Our Virgin of Peñafrancia.

The first chapel built in her honor was made of *nipa* and bamboo. Through the centuries, the devotion to the Virgin grew, drawing people from other places. The book, "Naga: Birth and Rebirth of a City" by Prof. Danilo Madrid Gerona, says "the conflict between the Naga warrior and the Castilian conquistador, had its resolution in the icon of the Nuestra Señora de Peñafrancia whom the natives called 'Ina.'"

On the week of the fluvial procession, which falls on the third Saturday of September, thousands flock to Naga. They come to ask for favors or to thank her for prayers answered. The Virgin always makes it possible for me to be there every year. For the first time, Teddy Arcilla was there to take photos for my column and for his own Marian journal. The vestment worn by the Virgin was made by Aureo Alonzo.

The book of Prof. Gerona tells of a severe drought that struck the region in 1711 and the residents of Canaman, a town near Peña de Francia, going on a pilgrimage led by Fray Matias Guadalupe, their Franciscan curate. "It was recorded that after the Mass, the sky darkened and it rained recurrently for more than a month."

Call Nene de Asis at tel. (045) 4732051 or text Prof. Gerona at (0920) 3107645 about the book "Naga: Birth and Rebirth of a City." Gerona did a great job researching the history of the city. Mayor Jesse Robredo personally supported the preparation of the book, especially the trips of Gerona to Madrid for research. The book was launched last June 18 during the 55th anniversary of the City of Naga.

Inspired by 'Ina'

The Bicol clergy is devoted to the Our Lady of Peñafrancia. It is said that more young men are joining the priesthood because of inspiration from the Virgin. Three deacons, for instance, were ordained this weekend. All theologians from the UST Central Seminary, they are Felipe B. Culvera III of St. Michael Parish in Canaman, Camarines Sur; Darius S. Romualdo of the Holy Rosary Parish in Bombon, Camarines Sur; and Philip Francis Bersabe of Our Lady of Prompt Succor in Bagong Bayan, Naga City. They were ordained by Archbishop Leonardo Legaspi.

'Rosaryo ni Maria'

The UST Central Seminary and the Santissimo Parish are holding a Marian exhibit on the Rosary of Mary Sept. 24-Oct. 3 at the Museum of Arts and Sciences. A Marian procession will take place at 3 p.m. Oct. 3 at the UST.

The Novena to Our Lady of La Naval begins on Oct. 3 in Sto. Domingo Church. Feast day falls on Oct. 12.

Rosary fiesta in Tolosa

The St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Tolosa, Leyte will celebrate the Year of the Holy Rosary with Novena Masses Sept. 27-Oct. 7. Love offering for Novena Masses will help in the catechetical program and in the completion of the parochial school building. Those who wish to help can call Msgr. Benedicto Catilogo (053) 3226034 or write to him care of the parish.

Fr. Emmanuel Ocaña, who sent the letter, prays that you will be blessed through the intercession of Our Mother, the Queen of the Holy Rosary.

Seminary holds concert

To raise funds to fix the leaking roof of their seminary, the Schola Cantorum will hold a concert, "Mysteries of Light," Oct. 3-4 at the Minor Seminary Rosary Court in Naga.

The concert will feature Ivy Violan and other performers from the UST Conservatory of Music.

The seminarians, numbering 36, will come to Manila on Oct. 8 for a mission appeal in churches, schools and homes. Those who wish to help can text Ming Bernas at 0920-904-0310 or call her at 8237837. The rector of the seminary is Fr. Peter Beriña.

San Lorenzo Ruiz feast

Sept. 28 is the feast day of San Lorenzo Ruiz, first Filipino saint. All churches in the Philippines are honoring him with Masses and processions. Sol Alturas Yu, a devotee of the saint, brings small images of San Lorenzo Ruiz when she goes abroad and gives them to friends.

Public forum

The Evangelion Foundation Inc., through its Integrated Leadership Formation Program, is inviting leaders of various communities to its first public forum on media awareness on Saturday, Oct. 4, at the Theology Room of the San Carlos Seminary, Edsa, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Talking on "Media—Good News of Bad News" is well-known media practitioner and educator Bernard Cañaberal. He will discuss how media, in various forms, are challenging other institutions like the family, schools and Church in shaping people's values.

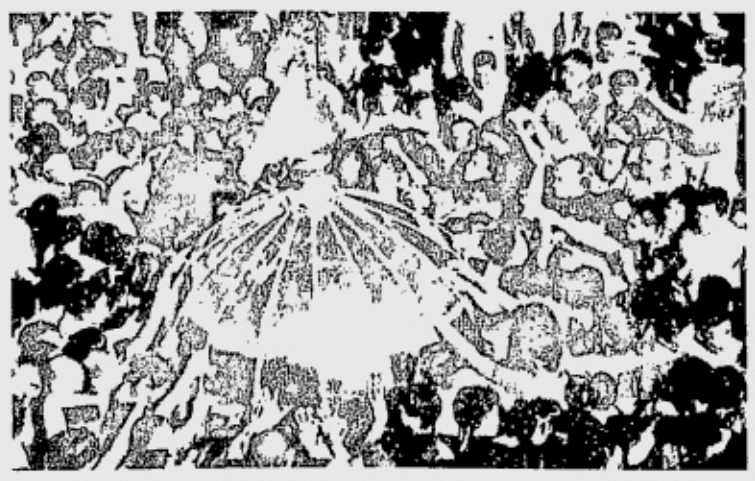
Cañaberal is the host of the television program Family Rosary Crusade on ABS-CBN Studio 23 and a writer and director of radio and teleplays for major broadcasting companies. He is often asked as resource person here and abroad on media awareness, literacy and education.

Call Didi Abejo at 5324566 or e-mail evnglion@i-manila.com.ph. Seminar is free but slots are limited.

Children's rosary rally

The Children's Rosary Movement will hold the 5th Children's Rosary Rally on Oct. 5 at Villa San Miguel with the theme, "Liwanag, Kapayapaan, Pagkakaisa (Light, Peace and Unity)."

Principal participants will be children aged 9-13 from various parishes who'll gather to pray the rosary from 3:30 to 4 p.m. It will be followed by an Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and Holy Mass.



OUR Lady of Peñafrancia is carried to the Tabuco Bridge for the fluvial procession.

PHOTO: TED ARCILLA

H.E. Jaime Cardinal L. Sin launched the Children's Rosary Rally in October 1999 with Francisco A. Alba, then president of the Children's Rosary Movement. Alba is the present Ambassador to the Holy See.

Call Family Rosary Crusade at 5216953, 5242779; Evangelion Foundation, 5324566 and 5341607; and Prudential Life Plan Group, Inc., 8164157.

WWF

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A culinary celebration for the environment

October 6 to 19, 2003 • Greenbelt 2, Makati City

From October 6 to 19, twelve of Greenbelt 2's best chefs will showcase culinary masterpieces especially made to celebrate a vision for a living planet. Come sit down to this two-week long feast and help WWF-Philippines, the conservation organization, find better ways for Filipinos to live in harmony with the environment.

Dig in to the dishes and delight your senses in this unique festival.

Bizu Patisserie
Stuffed Pigeon on a Bed of Sweet Potatoes and Mesclun with Apricot Sauce

Cena
Cajun-Crusted Seared Tuna with Creamy Caviar Sauce and Carrot-Tomyum Linguini

Kai
Poached Shrimp and Cucumber Salad with Sweet and Spicy Ponzu Vinaigrette

Masas
Sinanglay na Tilapia

Pepato
Pumpkin Caprino Lune with Mousseline Duetto of Garlic Red Beet and Watercress Parmigianno

Restaurant 12
Squid with a Medley of Stuffing on a Bed of Mixed Greens

Segafredo Espresso Bar
Pan Grilled Chicken with Omelette Mushroom Rice

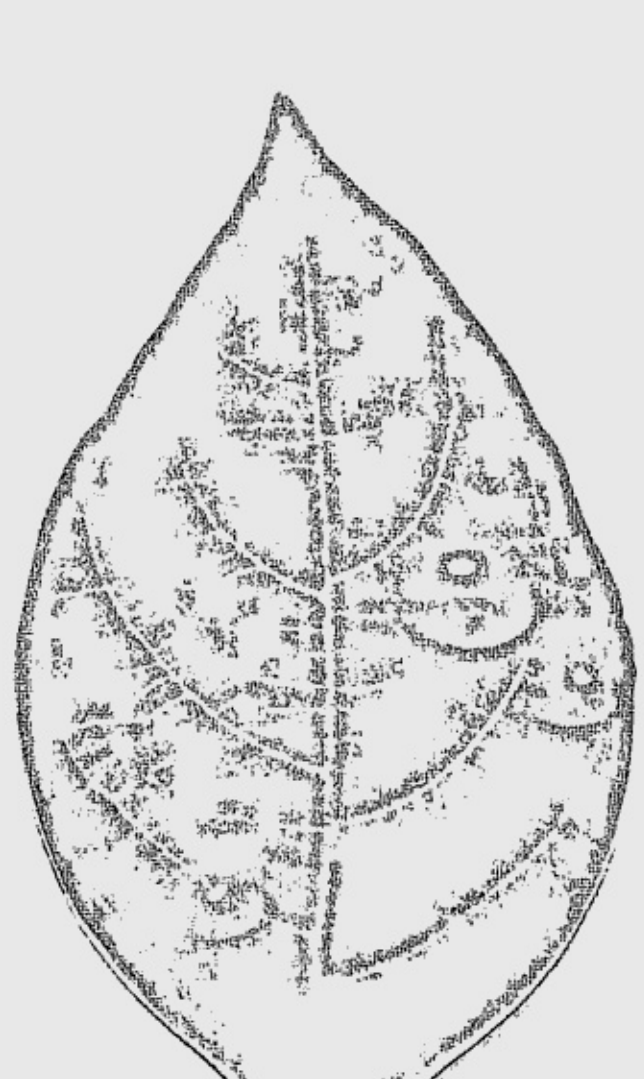
Soleil Cafe Moderne
Crabmeat Linguini with Spring Asparagus and Shellfish Bisque

Sugi Japanese Restaurant
Unagi Salada Maki

Temple Bar & Restaurant
Butterfly Prawns with Thai Chili Sauce and Stir Fry Vegetable Rice

Una Mas
Annato Marinated Chicken Breast Stuffed with Chorizo Bread Stuffing, Saffron Rice & Chimichurri Sauce

Uva
Pan Seared Tilapia Fillets on Asparagus, Lemongrass and Shrimp Risotto with a Light Coconut Sage



Vote for your favorite dish / restaurant starting Oct 7 to Oct 19, 2003. Just text WWF POLL and send to 2366. Available to Globe, Touch Mobile, Smart and Talk N Text Subscribers. P2.50 for each message sent.

For inquires on the festival cocktails/launch, please call 920 7923, 920 7926, 920 7931, 927 0247 or 929 1258.

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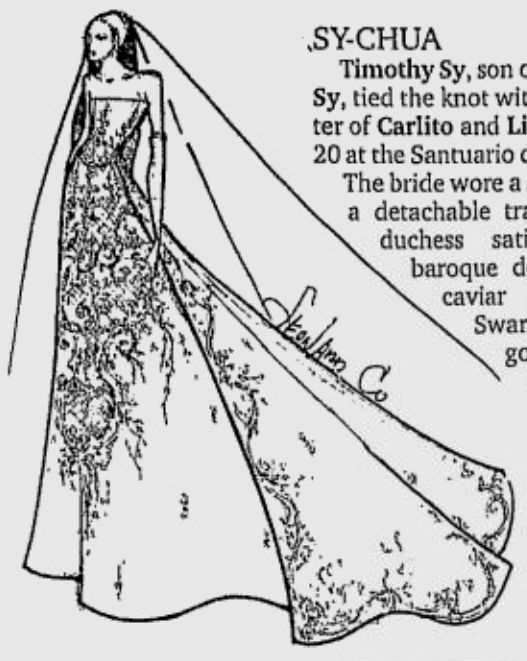
Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.



SY-CHUA

Timothy Sy, son of **Lorenzo** and **Cely Sy**, tied the knot with **Jill Chua**, daughter of **Carlito** and **Linda Chua**, on Sept. 20 at the Santuario de San Antonio.

The bride wore a strapless gown with a detachable train made of white duchess satin with intricate baroque design beadwork of caviar cut beads and Swarovski stones. The gown was designed by **Leonard Co.**

TAN DEBUT

Mary Justin A. Tan, daughter of **William** and **Marilyn Tan**, is celebrating her 18th birthday today at the City Garden Hotel, Manila.

Ma. Emily Sy of Esy Creations made the debutante's gown.

REYES-YU

Rowen Joseph Reyes, son of **Renato III** and **Luisa Reyes**, will marry **August Yu**, daughter of **Jack** and **Rosario Yu**, on Oct. 3 at the Santuario de San Jose.

For the bride, **Leonard Co** designed a white duchess satin off-shoulder gown with a long train, fully embroidered with a floral pattern and beaded with cut crystals and sequins.

ESTARIS-MACATLANG

Sarah Jane T. Macatlang, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Narciso T. Macatlang**, exchanged vows with **Napoleon Estaris**, son of **Adoracion Austria vda. de Estaris**, on June 8 at the St. Thomas de Aquinas Church, Mangaldan, Pangasinan. The wedding was solemnized by Msgr. **Victor Z. Embuido.** Reception followed at City de Luxe Restaurant, Dagupan City. The entourage wore creations by Freny's.

PATINDOL-GOMEZ

1Lt. **Christopher Lee Patindol**, son of **Teofilo** and **Lourdes Patindol**, tied the knot recently with Dr. **Gladys Gomez**, daughter of **Carlos** and **Estrellita Gomez**, at the St. Jude Thaddeus Parish Church, Bacolod, City. Reception followed at Garden Royale, Goldenfields, Bacolod City. The bridal gown was by **Kiking Chua.**

CERESO-NARTATES

Jowell D. Cereso, son of **Ernesto** and **Josie Cereso**, married **Kristine Nartates**, daughter of **Jesus** and **Fatima Nartates**, on Aug. 31 at Malate Church.

The bride wore a gown by **Leonard Co** with white gazar satin sleeves and fully beaded princess cut bouffant skirt. Wedding coordinators were **Vanie** and **Bing** of Pep Events.

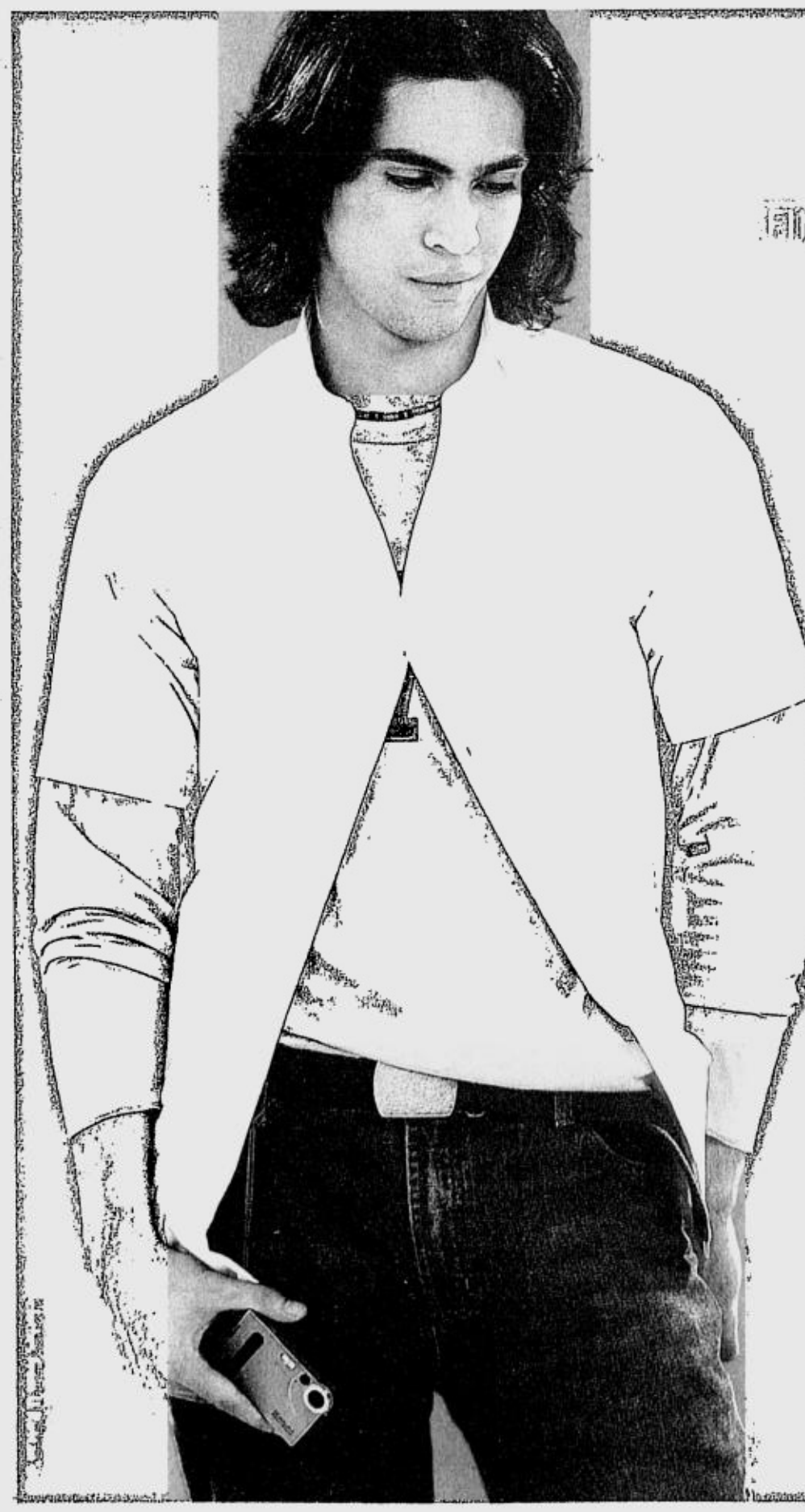
OBLIFIAS DEBUT

Elleanne Manalad Oblifias, daughter of **Danny** and **Stella Oblifias**, celebrated her 18th birthday last Sept. 6 at the Century Park Hotel. Her hair and makeup were done by **Garner** of James Cooper Salon.

The debutante is a tourism sophomore at the University of Sto. Tomas and a member of the school's pep squad.

ANDRES-GOPENGCO

Stephen M. Andres, son of **Victoria Andres** and the late **Petronillo Andres** of Fugu, Jones, Isabela, and **Frances Marie S. Gopengco**, eldest daughter of **Rosemarie Gopengco** and the late **Francisco Gopengco** of Goa, Camarines Sur, tied the knot at the San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila on Aug. 30. **Stephen Kyle**, the couple's son, was the ring bearer. Reception followed at the Grand Ballroom of Manila Diamond Hotel.



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Special PROJECT

E-mail: sprojects@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

AYALA LAND, INC.

A business anchored on trust

OWNING a house is the fulfillment of a dream. It is not only the single most important investment a person can make; for the average Filipino, it represents the achievement of a lifetime. A home is also the foundation on which an individual will build his future and that of his family. It is the embodiment of all his aspirations.

Ayala Land, Inc. knows and understands this.

Which is why it always strives to put value in every property it develops and sells – value that will stand the test of time. Quality, reliability, and value for money are the measures of a sound real estate investment. And because lifetime savings are involved, there must be a great deal of certainty in that decision. This requires trust, which the Ayala name is known for.

"Putting a very significant amount of their savings in our trust is a responsibility that we take very seriously. We do everything we can to give our customers good long-term value," says Ayala Land chairman Fernando Zobel de Ayala.

This trust is even more important for the average income earners who are now a significant part of ALI's clients, according to Francisco H. Licuanan III, ALI's founding president and president for the last 15 years. "When a family trusts you with their lifetime savings, it is no longer just a business transaction. You have a moral obligation to do right by them."

"We view our relationship with a client as a long-term one. While we may or may not ever sell him another home, the home he buys from us will be with him a long time. And so is our commitment. We want him to be happy with our product – and with our company – for as long as reasonably possible," Licuanan adds.

Such customer satisfaction is only possible if Ayala Land is capable of and willing to engage in a long-term commitment with its clients.

And this is something that the Ayala name has always been known for – knowing that lasting value is built and assured over time through good planning, proper development and complete support systems.

> "One key element that runs in all our minds as managers is, at the end of the day, what are we doing for the country? We try to set the highest standards in everything that we do and commit ourselves completely to the future of our country. This often includes looking beyond the bottom line and finding other ways of helping communities around us." – *Fernando Zobel de Ayala, ALI Chairman*

Francisco H. Licuanan III, ALI president, and Fernando Zobel de Ayala, ALI chairman

The making of Makati

A shining testament to Ayala's ability to make a long-term commitment and see it through is the development of Makati – once a piece of undeveloped farmland compared to the pomp and grandeur of Manila.

Ayala's visionary leaders, among them Colonel Joseph R. McMicking and Alfonso Zobel de Ayala, displayed uncanny foresight in recognizing the potential of the company's substantial landholdings there, and set to work making it the financial and commercial center of the country.

After World War II, many people woke up to a rudely ravaged homeland. More than any of its Asian neighbors, the Philippines suffered heavily. Manila was leveled.

But amid the ruins lay a promise of opportunity. McMicking realized the urgent need to establish a residential and financial center to serve the needs of a newly liberated, post-war society.

Personifying the resiliency of the Filipinos, Ayala immediately commenced on a carefully drawn vision of Makati.

"It was a unique development in Asia; a visionary effort that applied American planning standards," underscores Zobel de Ayala. McMicking did not want what he termed as the "salami approach" to be the fate of the landholdings in Makati. "Land," he had maintained, "is not salami. It usually represents a huge investment in time and effort, and it sells slowly. Once sold, it may be out of your hands but it doesn't disappear. It has an effect on the rest of the land around it, whether it's yours still to sell, or somebody else's. If the first lot turns into a slum, the value of the last piece will suffer."

McMicking, together with his new Chief of Development Col. Jaime C. Velasquez, prepared a long-term master plan and introduced modern concepts of planning and zoning. Through it, the partitions of the land were dictated based on a set of restrictions as to the type of construction and density per section.

Over the next 20 to 30 years Makati would slowly but steadily transform itself into a self-sufficient community and the key financial center in the country.

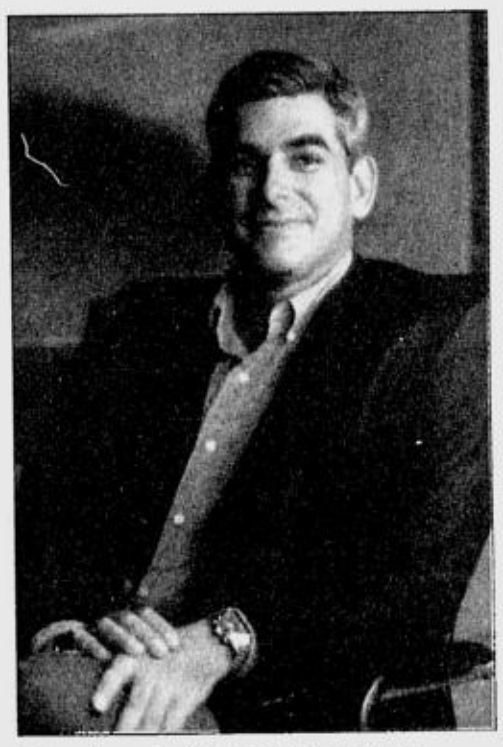
"The visionaries had big dreams and tried to plan as carefully as they could for the success and growth that would follow. But the planned area of Makati became much more successful than they could imagine," Zobel de Ayala says. Fernando remembers with amusement an advertisement from the '60s that he saw a few years ago. The advertisement offers a bottle of champagne to anyone who cannot find a parking space in the business center. "We're fortunate that this particular promise is no longer in effect," he says with a laugh.

The story of the post-World War II Ayala won't be complete without mention of Mercedes Zobel McMicking. The family matriarch then was, in her quiet way, instrumental in most of the major decisions and appointments in the company.

Even in 1997, when Fernando Zobel de Ayala visited Doña Mercedes in Spain and narrated the economic issues of the Philippines, Mrs. McMicking was a study in fortitude and faith. Referring to what the family had to endure during the Second World War: "Going through the war was a crisis," she said. "The problems that you are going through are less severe and will pass."

"You quickly realize the need to put things in their proper perspective as well as the benefits of a long-term view. There will be obstacles along the way, but a company with solid foundations, prudent management and a long-term commitment will get through these challenges," says Zobel de Ayala.

In January 1948, Ayala started work on a subdivision adjacent to the Manila Polo Club and Manila Golf Club, a suburb called Forbes Park – where the company aimed to attract wealthy families, top people in the industry, foreign businessmen and diplomats. Ayala knew that if these people came, others would surely follow. They made sure that the right ingredients were there – paved streets, elaborate landscaping, underground drainage, a good water system and restrictions that would ensure a low-density and high-quality environment.



Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, Ayala Corporation president and ALI vice-chairman

All these measures paid off. In 1949, Manila's well-known families began buying in Forbes Park, making it the new choice parcel of land in Makati.

Work on other residential villages started: San Lorenzo in 1952, Bel Air in 1954, Urdaneta in 1957, San Miguel in 1960, and Magallanes and Dasmariñas in 1962.

Brick by brick, dream by dream, the real estate interests of the company started to increase. People started to take notice and the Ayala brand became synonymous with quality and prestige. Throughout this period, real estate was a division of Ayala Corporation. As such it competed with other business interests of the group for attention and resources.

That would change in 1988, the year Ayala Land was ready to be born.

Coming into its own

When Ayala Land, Inc. was spun off from Ayala Corporation, chairman Don Jaime Zobel de Ayala had envisioned a company that would have "greater flexibility and clearer focus in taking advantage of the many opportunities created by the newly revitalized economy."

"It was clear to us that we wanted to be a full-line real estate company," says Licuanan.

The wisdom of Don Jaime Zobel de Ayala and the visionary in Licuanan proved to be a perfect match. The new corporation became a perfect mix of energy and unbridled enthusiasm from the very start. Both Don Jaime and Licuanan were also driven by their commitment to customer satisfaction, integrity, a passion for quality, and love for country – values very much a part of the Ayala culture.

Actually, Licuanan (then head of corporate planning at AC) initially refused his ALI posting for two reasons: it was boring and it had no social content. At that time, all that the real estate group had built were the upscale Forbes Park in Makati, the Ayala Alabang Village and Ayala Heights in Quezon City. But Don Jaime was persistent. The offer came a second time. And on the third time, he gave a condition he couldn't refuse: "You make it interesting and you put the social content, and I will support you."

Soon, Ayala Land was moving not only to broaden its revenue base but to diversify product lines and markets.

In 1989, ALI launched a highly successful line of residential condominiums called the Salcedo series, whetting the appetite of a burgeoning condominium market.

Additionally, true to form, ALI began to commit substantial resources in the Calabarzon region for groundwork for projects over the long term. This move distinguished ALI as one of but a few pioneering companies that recognized the massive potentials of the locale.

In the next year, Ayala Land began the development of the 50-hectare Cebu Business Park, which has since evolved into the business and commercial hub of the city. Meanwhile, ALI also established the Laguna Technopark, Inc. in cooperation with Mitsubishi Corporation and Kawasaki Steel Corporation.

In 1991, ALI became a publicly-listed company when its Class B common shares were offered at the Manila and Makati Stock Exchanges. In Alabang, work commenced on the Madrigal Business Park.

Among the company's significant moves was the creation of subsidiaries to enhance the delivery of services and goods to a wider market. Some of them are: Ayala Hotels, Inc., which consolidated hotel operations; Makati Development Corporation, which provided a construction arm for ALI; Laguna Properties Holdings, Inc., which offered more affordable housing; Community Innovations, Inc., which administered to the core middle-income market; Ayala Property Management Corporation, which rendered post-sales management of properties; and Ayala Land Sales, Inc., which enhanced sales efforts.

With the newfound autonomy and the flexibility to map out its own development, ALI has grown to be the preeminent property developer in the country.

Corporate credo

But more than a thriving real estate company, Ayala Land, Inc. has distinguished itself through its responsible, responsive, and ethical conduct of business that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

AYALA LAND

AT FIFTEEN!

Meet our family.

Whoever you are, you'll find a home in our family of malls.

Developed and Managed by Ayala Land, Inc

AYALA CENTER
GLORIETTA • GREENBELT

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

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MARKET! MARKET!
BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY
Opens 2004

METRO POINT
PASAY TAFT ROTONDA
your convenience mall

PAVILION mall
BIÑAN, LAGUNA

A business anchored on trust

From page 1

has lent moral strength to its policies and practices.

Principled operations are a cherished Ayala tradition since the company's inception in 1834. Zobel de Ayala brothers Jaime Augusto and Fernando today consider themselves custodians of a company with "a long and proud history in the country. We are the seventh generation of managers. Our greatest responsibility is to turn this organization over to the eighth generation stronger and more profitable than when it was turned over to us," volunteers Fernando.

Jaime Augusto adds: "More than anything we all derive great satisfaction from charting a progressive path to the future where the company has a chance to regularly re-invent itself and create new standards for communities and a higher quality of life for its clients."

"To ensure this growth and to promote continuity and harmony in the organization, ALI takes care of its own people in much the same way as it takes care of its clients," Fernando continues.

Small wonder then, that ALI was chosen as one of Asia's top three property corporations shortly after its 10th year. It was also listed as Asia's top property and construction company and one of Asian's most admired companies by *Asian Business Magazine*. Hong Kong-based *Asiamoney* also recognized ALI as the Best in Financial Management last year.

One of the benefits of adopting upright policies is attracting like-minded individuals with an uncompromising work ethic.

"Our people work because they know their company is worth working for," declares Licuanan who was adjudged recently, along with Ayala Land's Jaime Ysmael, as the best CEO and CFO in the country by the International Investor Research Group.

Because of its valuable human resource, ALI is thriving and growing. "After all," Licuanan continues, "money can bring in resources, technology can improve production, but people can produce the greatest leaps for your company."

The desire to work with a fastidious eye on integrity and quality is also reflected in ALI's choices of and dealings with partners.

AYALA MANAGING PARTNERS' MEETING IN THE '60S. Sitting from left: Don Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Don Alfonso Zobel de Ayala, Joseph R. McMicking and Don Enrique Zobel. Standing from left: Javier Nepomuceno, Alfredo Melian, Jaime C. Velasquez, Don Jaime Zobel de Ayala and Atty. Salvador J. Lorayes.

> "Profit is not a primary motivation. It is a result. Profit is, in fact, the test that we are doing it right. Profit is proof that lofty ideas can be sustainable." *Francisco H. Licuanan III, ALI president*

"We apply equitable standards with our partners who share with us our responsibility to deliver the best to our customers," said Licuanan.

And these partnerships help enable all parties to realize many of their shared aspirations.

Corporate citizenship

Said 18th-century engineer and philanthropist Peter Cooper: "I have always recognized that the object of business is to make money in an honorable manner. I have endeavored to remember that the object of life is to do good."

Such appropriate words, indeed, as Ayala Land makes money in an honorable manner, and strives to uplift life as it recognizes its responsibility to the community that it is part of.

Fulfilling one's responsibilities to society sometimes calls for bold and determined action. The Ayala Group dared to take a stand against the excesses and injustices of the Marcos regime. It was 1983; Benigno Aquino had been felled by bullets upon his arrival at the Manila International Airport. His bloodied body became the rallying point of the dissent that finally boiled over.

"Following the assassination of Ninoy Aquino, the family, as well as our senior managers and colleagues in the office, took a very significant risk by taking a stand. We could have stayed out of politics, but the stakes for the country were too high and we wanted to take a stand and be counted," Zobel de Ayala recalls.

Licuanan adds: "A lot of us felt very strongly about taking a stand but we were worried about the possible repercussions on the Company. So I went to see Don Jaime and he said, 'Tell your people to do what they think is right. We will deal with the consequences.' Before I knew it, virtually the entire company had organized itself and was marching in the streets."

Through the years, ALI also dutifully performs civic work as it strengthens its commitment to improve the quality of life in target communities through livelihood opportunities; the protection of the environment; implementation of support activities for education, health, culture, and tourism; traffic management; and investment promotion.

Ayala Land also took the lead in the start up of Centex, a special school for gifted children from the poorest families in Tondo. It was initially conceived by Licuanan and the bulk of the start-up funding was provided by ALI. "Kaiku (Francisco III) Licuanan was instrumental, along with Vicky Garchitorena of Ayala Foundation, in starting this special education program. The results speak for themselves. These children are doing extremely well and I have no doubt that they are being given the tools to excel and become future leaders," relates Zobel de Ayala.

To whom much is given, much is expected. ALI does not shirk from its myriad of responsibilities to its external and internal publics, and in fact embraces these with a fervor that mirrors its own drive for customer satisfaction.

Customer satisfaction

Never losing sight of the essentials is what fuels Ayala Land well into a viable future. Financial returns are only a desirable consequence for this company of dreamers.

"Profit is not a primary motivation. It is a result. Profit is, in fact, the test that we are doing it right. Profit is proof that lofty ideas can be sustainable." Licuanan says.

Sustainability. This is another byword in Ayala Land that guides its actions. Much like Col. McMicking's theory of the "salami approach," today's Ayala Land takes seriously its long-term commitment to all its stakeholders including the communities around them.

Zobel de Ayala shares: "One key element that runs in all our minds as managers is, at the end of the day, what we are doing for the country? We try to set the highest standards in everything that we do and commit ourselves completely to the future of our country. This often includes looking beyond the bottom line and finding other ways of helping communities around us."

After 15 years, Ayala Land, Inc. is touching more lives than ever. Its massive operations via 19 subsidiaries offer a variety of products and services catering to a wider customer range: young urban achievers scaling corporate ladders, newly-married couples with tight budgets, retirees going back to their roots, soldiers with families needing secure homes, province-based professionals seeking Metro Manila homes, shoppers, commuters, tourists, golf enthusiasts, bachelors, clothes and fashion entrepreneurs, businessmen, computer-parts producers seeking Philippine hubs – these are people served by ALI. These are the people benefiting from the company's singular passion for customer satisfaction.

ALI's reach has also grown exponentially. The company's ventures are now all over the archipelago: Calabarzon, Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo, Naga, Cabanatuan, Pampanga, Lucena.

All these conquests and achievements can be attributed to ALI's ability in the last 15 years to reinvent itself: in products, in markets, in project locations, in concepts and in corporate culture.

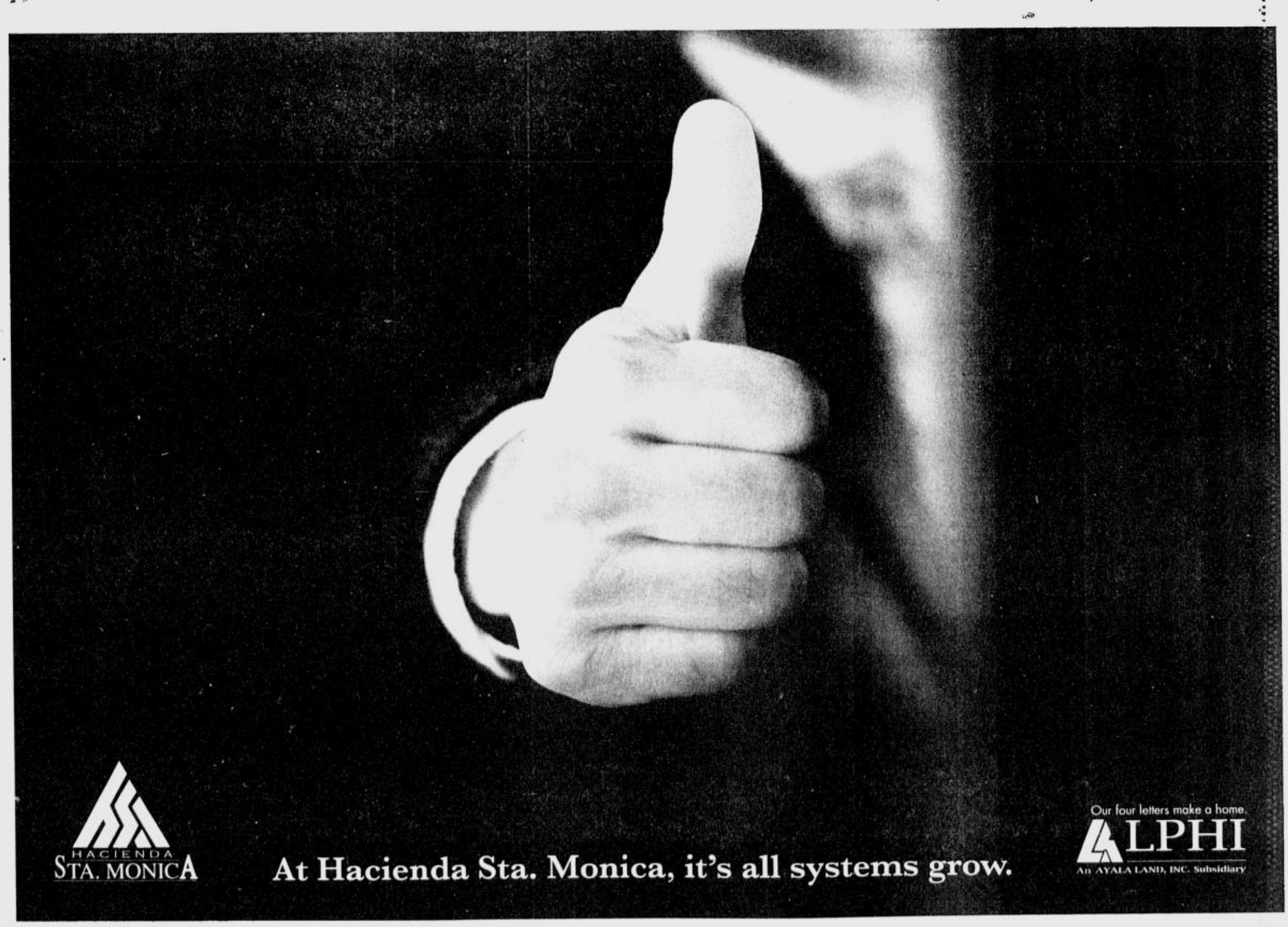
Colonel Joseph R. McMicking and Mrs. Mercedes McMicking

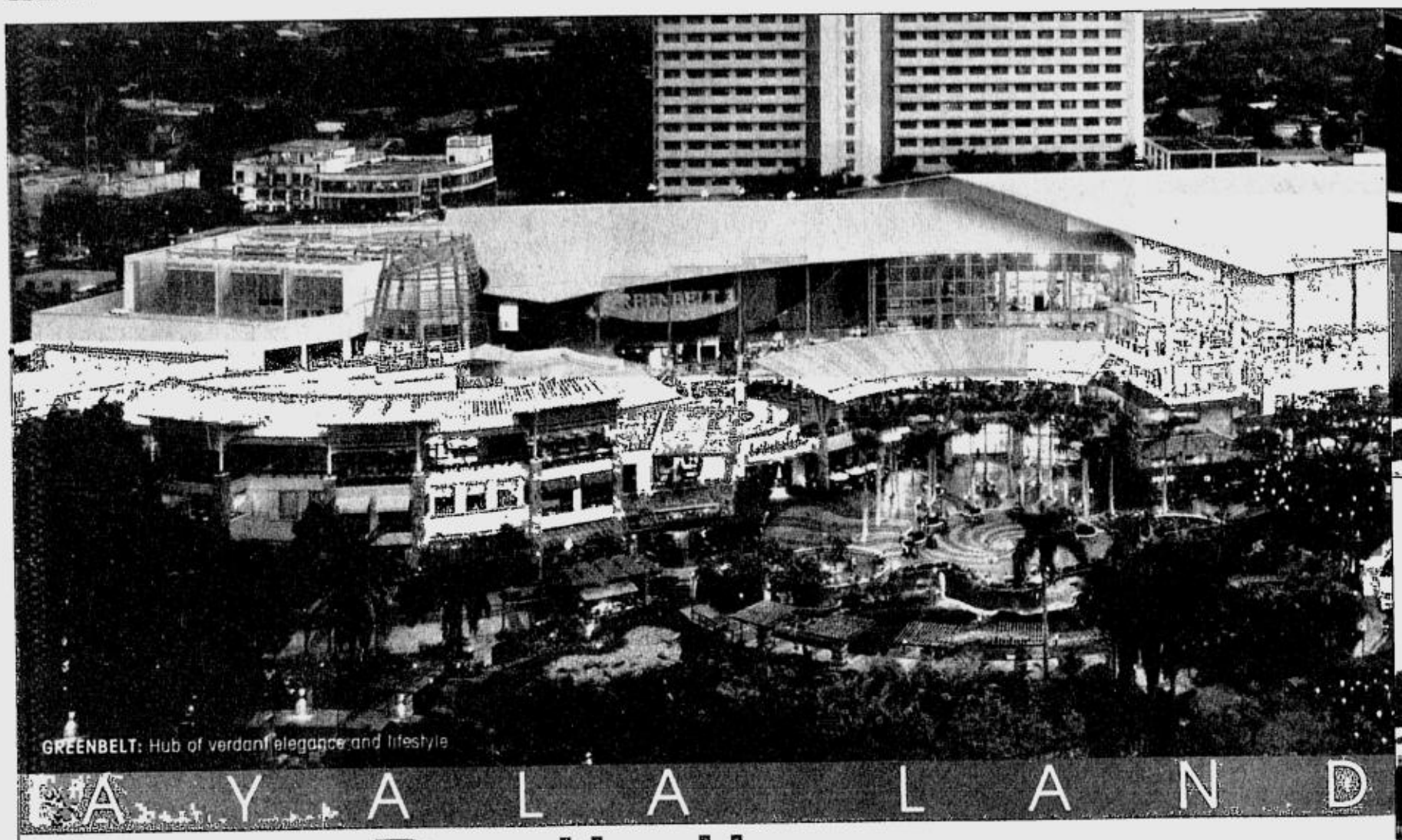
But the biggest measure of success for ALI is the trust that its customers have bestowed on the company and its products.

This legacy of trust has been earned not only because of how ALI reinvented itself but, more importantly, because of the core values that the entire ALI organization has zealously protected over the years.

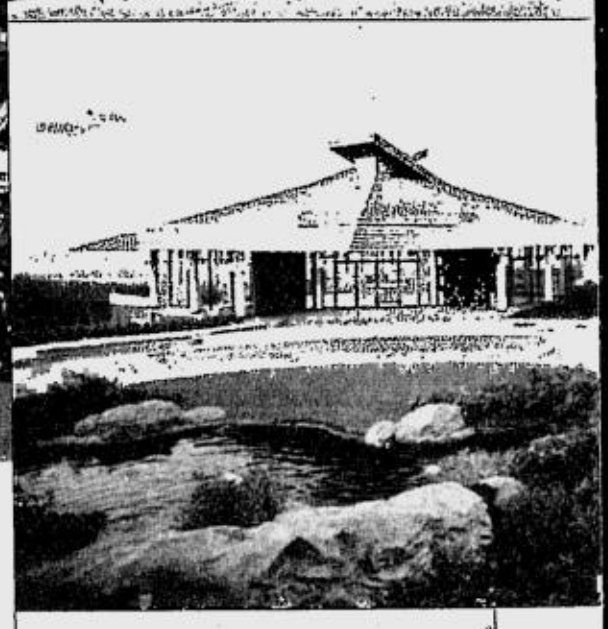
As enshrined in its vision, Ayala Land does not only build fully-integrated communities, but nurtures them as "living and breathing testaments to the dreams and aspirations of those who build them and those who live and work in them."

And it is inevitable that they will continue to dream and pursue those same dreams as well – more good news for the people who entrust their aspirations to Ayala Land.





GREENBELT: Hub of verdant elegance and lifestyle



AYALA LAND

Building dreams for everyone

SINCE its spin-off as a real estate company from the Ayala Corporation, Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) moved into new market frontiers and redefined itself as a developer for all. It has significantly widened its spectrum of products and services for the high-end market to the broader segments of society.

As the country's only full-line real estate developer, ALI builds integrated residential communities, condominiums, town houses and single-family homes, entire business districts, office buildings and industrial parks, regional shopping centers, lifestyle centers, and value malls.

It is in a class of its own.

While solidifying its stronghold on the high-end market, ALI introduced new concepts and innovations that captured special niches of this market. Meanwhile, ALI broadened its focus to target the middle and mass housing markets.

"The profile of ALI customers has changed quite significantly in recent years. We are delighted that we can now serve a much larger client base," says Fernando Zobel de Ayala, chairman of Ayala Land, Inc.

Zobel credits Francisco H. Licuanan III, ALI president since the beginning, for his vision and passion to expand the products and market base of ALI. "Under his leadership, ALI has gone through an enormous change. The company now covers a wide range of product lines and has built a strong level of expertise in all these lines. We have a great team at ALI. It was also thanks to Kaiku's prudence during the mid '90s that the company was able to get through the Asian crisis." Zobel says.

As a full-line real estate company, ALI organized itself into strategic business units with the view of solidifying its traditional businesses while venturing into previously unchartered undertakings.

Sustaining leadership in a highly discerning market

The Ayala brand has been legendary in developing upscale residential communities - Forbes Park, Ayala Alabang Village and Ayala Heights in Quezon City. Building on its credibility in this high-end market, ALI soon after its establishment moved to diversify product offerings and markets.

Ayala Land's Residential Buildings Group (RBG) launched the Salcedo series of residential condominiums which immediately set a standard in the rapidly expanding condominium market. After the Asian crisis, ALI continued to display its market savvy, establishing a sustained presence in several segments of the high-end residential buildings and housing sector despite the prevailing poor investment climate in the country.

Recognizing untapped high-end markets in Quezon City, RBG developed Ferndale Homes and Montgomery Place. Within Makati, ALI targeted certain niche markers in the high-end sector, particularly for smaller but high-quality and competitively-priced condominium units. One Legazpi Park neatly fits this demand. But RBG's ultimate offering in this highly discerningmarket is One Roxas Triangle, a 182-unit luxury condominium in the heart of Makati.

Meanwhile, ALI's Land and Community Development Group (LCDG) pioneered in the move of upscale communities to the Calabarzon region with the launch of two residential subdivisions at Ayala South: Ayala Westgrove Heights and Ayala Greenfield Estates (AGE).

The latter is a unique concept in the Philippines. All lot owners in Ayala Greenfield Estates, for a minimum activation fee, are automatically members of the AGE Golf and Leisure Club – which features a Ro- bert Trent Jones Jr.-designed golf course – without the need of purchasing a proprietary share.

Last September, ALI launched its newest high-end residential subdivision, Ayala Hillside Estates, near Ayala Heights in Quezon City. The subdivision boasts of 23 hectares of rolling terrain meandering the redeveloped Capitol Hills golf course.

Tristan de la Rosa, ALI senior vice president and LCDG head, says that the "intimate understanding of customers' needs and the passion to fulfill, if not exceed, those needs" are key to the realization of the ALI vision.

"We take a long-range view of business, recognizing that value to customers is a long-term proposition that does not end with our sale of a product to him," he says.

"We look at ourselves as community builders. We build communities for people, then for the high-end and now for the middle and mass markets. It is generating a lot of excitement inside ALI." — *Francisco H. Licuanan III, ALI President*

Serving the young and upwardly mobile achievers

In 2002, ALI established Community Innovations, Inc. (CII) to target what it calls the "core middle-income" market. This market represents the young and upwardly mobile urban achievers – executives, professionals and entrepreneurs.

Angela de Villa Lacson, senior vice president, RBG head, and CII president, says, "I was given the freedom to grow CII. We proceeded to understand this market and to address its needs." She relates that the tasks at hand in the new company are fulfilled through "teamwork and with full support of ALI management."

CII launched two successful projects last year. Verdana Homes in Bacoor, Cavite, a 25-hectare residential subdivision, was quickly sold out in less than three months, ex-

ALI MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: The solid team behind the company's strategic business units. Sitting from left: Marivic Añonuevo, Miriam Katigbak, Francisco Licuanon III, Mercedita Nolledo and Angela Lacson. Standing from left: Emilio Tumbocon, Rene Almendras, Vincent Tan, Manuel Colayco Jr., Jaime Ysmael and Tristan de la Rosa.

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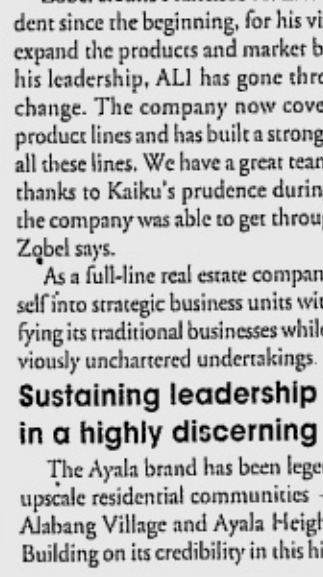
A PEEK INTO AYALA LAND'S HISTORY 1988-2003

1988
• Following Ayala Land Inc.'s spin-off from Ayala Corporation, it moves to broaden its revenue base and diversify product lines and markets.



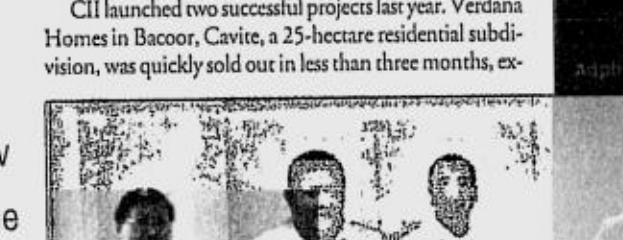
One Salcedo Place, the first of four magnificent residential condominiums in Salcedo Village.

1989
• ALI launches an ambitious program to redevelop Ayala Center in hopes of further strengthening the Company's recurring income base.
• The Company activates interest in the high-rise and office sector with One Salcedo Place. An enthusiastic market buys all available units within weeks.
• In Calabarzon, the Company commits major resources in anticipation of development projects over the long term and pioneers in its transformation as the country's most dynamic industrial zone.
• Hotel operations are consolidated under a subsidiary, Ayala Hotel, Inc.

1990
• Ayala Land begins development of the 50-hectare Cebu Business Park, which has evolved into the business and commercial hub of Southern Philippines. It is now the site of the Visayas' largest commercial complex and hosts the Ayala Center Cebu, as well as the first Marriot hotel established in the Philippines.
• The Company sets new standards for industrial estate development in the country with Laguna Technopark, Inc.,a joint venture with Mitsubishi Corporation and Kawasaki Steel Corporation.

1991
• ALI becomes a publicly-listed company when its Class B Common shares are offered at the Manila and Makati Stock Exchanges.
• The Company makes its initial venture into office land south of Makati with the development of the first phase of Madrigal Business Park in Alabang.

Set on an expansive location of 389 hectares, the Laguna Technopark is one of the country's fastest growing industrial centers.



Glorietta features a central activity center.

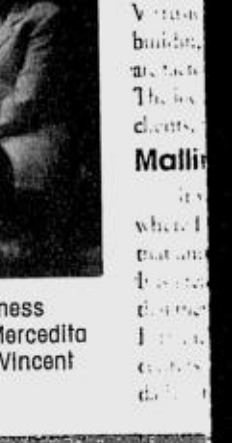
1992
• The Company makes a donation for the construction of a new building for the unified Philippine Stock Exchange.

1993
• Ayala Land ventures in the mass housing market through Laguna Properties Holdings, Inc. The subsidiary gains a significant foothold in the market as it adopts revolutionary building systems and uses its extensive experience in planning residential communities.
• Through a joint venture with the Yulo family, the company acquires controlling interest in 1,300 hectares of land in Canlubang, Laguna.

1994
• Glorietta opens at Ayala Center.
• The Alabang Commercial Center is renovated and relaunched as the Alabang Town Center.
• Ayala Center Cebu is formally launched.

1995
• ALI, in partnership with the Makati City Government and the Makati Commercial Estates Association, launches a long-term master plan for the Makati Central Business District.
• The company enters into joint ventures with SHV Makro and Hongkong Land for One Roxas Triangle.
• ALI ventures into infrastructure development by joining a consortium to construct the EDSA Metro Rail Transit System.

1996
• Tower One A, ... completed.
• LPHI launches ...
• Work comm... construction ... of the
• A pedestrian ... central busine...
• Construction ... elevated walkw...
• Office buildings ... FGU and Ayala ... Business Center ...



The community o... industrial parks, s...

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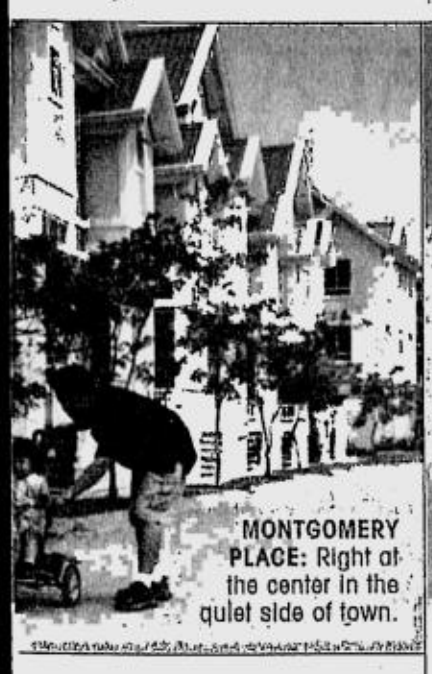
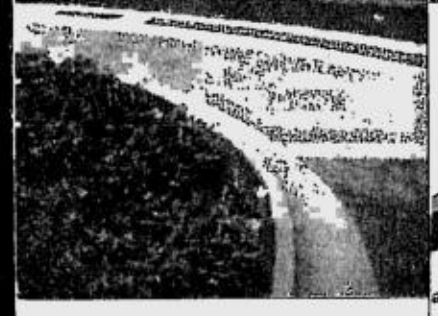


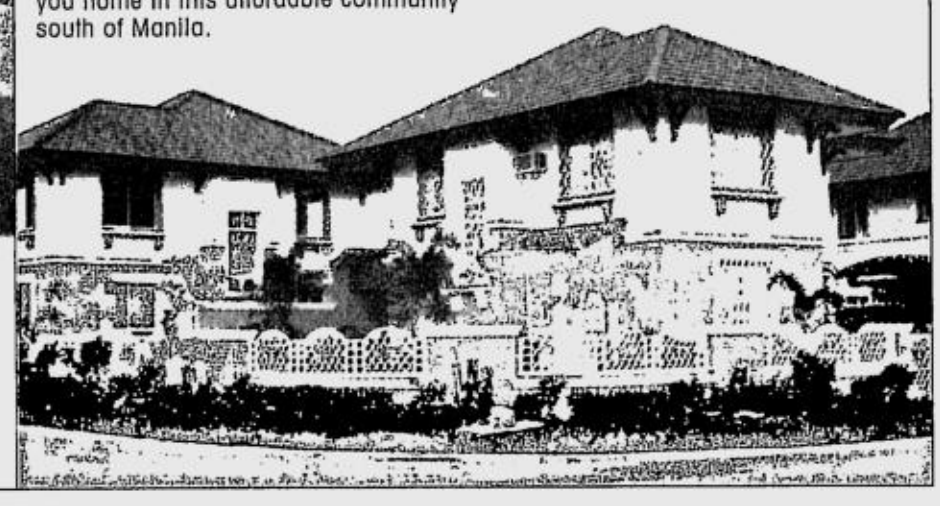
MONTGOMERY PLACE: Right at the center in the quiet side of town.

ONE ROXAS TRIANGLE: The height of luxury living (left).
THE REGENCY AT SALCEDO: Prime location in a quiet residential enclave within Salcedo Village (below).



GREENFIELD ESTATES: golf amidst panoramic Laguna, Tagaytay and Mt. (above).
ONE AND EXCHANGE PLAZA: address for businesses like (left).

STA. ROSA ESTATES: The good life beckons you home in this affordable community south of Manila.



AYALA LAND AT FIFTEEN!

Building dreams, building futures

As Ayala Land, Inc. commemorates 15 years of success, it adopts the theme "You keep dreaming; Ayala Land keeps building."

The theme reflects not only the company's vision of building thriving model residential, work and leisure communities, but its acceptance of its corporate role in nation-building.

"Even as we celebrate the past 15 years and what ALI has done, we are very much looking towards the future, the youth, and what we are re-committing to do for them," says ALI SVP and 15th anniversary chairperson Miriam Katigbak.

Two main programs will be focusing on laying the groundwork of education for our children's future.

Build-A-Schoolhouse Project

With the Build-A-Schoolhouse Project, Ayala Land commits to build additional classrooms in selected public elementary schools with an acute lack of these. ALI employees will participate in the actual building of these classrooms. The seven beneficiary schools identified are Ususan Elementary School in Taguig; Pasong Tamo Elememetary School in Quezon City; Maunong Elementary School in Calamba City; Inchican Elementary School in Silang, Cavite; Paradahan Elementary School in Tanza, Cavite; Sibugay Elementary School in Cebu City; and Isaias Tapales Elementary School in Antipolo City

Additionally, ALI, in partnership with Centex, will sponsor a one-day training seminar for teachers of the chosen schools.

The commitment to these needy learning centers doesn't begin and end with the gesture. To help augment their library catalog, ALI will embark on a book drive to source valuable reading material for donation. Also, school starter kits (consisting of supplies and implements such as pens, scissors, rulers, sharpeners, paper, erasers, etc.) will be distributed to Grade One pupils at the commencement of school year 2004-2005. Vital school equipment such as personal computers and electric fans will also be donated by the company.

ALI is also set to undertake feeding programs, as well as dental and medical missions at target communities. The company rounds out the effort by actively organizing and participating in a tree-planting activity in the open areas of target campuses.

Architectural design contest

Ayala Land, Inc. will hold a design competition among architecture students in their fourth year of study.

Participants will be asked to come up with a design for a middle-income house that is both beautiful and practical. True to the quality and spirit of Ayala communities, competitors must envision a complete community with complete amenities.

Ayala Land's venture into the middle-income market reflects the rise of young urban achievers looking for the perfect home to live in, and an ideal community in which to raise a family. This venture also reflects ALI's continuing diversification, and a drive to cater to more markets via responsive products – while keeping to the Ayala tradition of quality and excellence.

The competition is also indicative of ALI's recognition of an abundance of untapped talent in our schools. The contest is envisioned as a catalyst for more creativity and a showcase for many young yet no less innovative and original thinkers and planners.

xpectations. CII was forced to begin Phase II six ahead of schedule. Next offered was The Co- Ayala Avenue, consisting of three 30-storey resi- uildings. Strategically located on the corner of d Buendia Avenues, the first tower of the ng residential buildings was sold out in less then ths.

ding a haven for business orises

ompany attained another level of distinction in g national growth with its Corporate Business CBG) entry into industrial estate development. ana Technopark Inc., which it manages, is now ere location of foreign industrial firms south of

ice president and CBG head Maria Victoria E. o recounts that ALI's entry into the industrial elopment was part of initiatives "that would not e ALI a full-line real estate company but would ct benefits to the country even at the sacrifice of its to the company."

than attaining the set objectives, Laguna ark, Inc. proved to be a "model of efficiency and evidenced by constant investor tours sponsored nment agencies as well as local government ates Añonuevo.

f Ayala's traditional business is office leasing. It ur buildings in Makati – Tower One (which the Ayala headquarters), 6750 Ayala Avenue, tock Exchange Building, and Ayala-Life FGU The occupancy rates in these buildings averaged at last year despite having higher lease rates than mium office buildings in Makati.

iner Bank of Munich, Germany has been a lo- the Tower One for seven years now. Cesar the bank's chief representative here, says the s quality, its location and the Ayala reputation s that prompted them to set up in the property. ion, he says, provides them good access to their otels, and restaurants.

ng the Ayala way

as in the shopping center unit of Ayala Corp. tarted my career. Many of the current leaders of came in at about the same time in the early '80s. to see the depth of knowledge and confidence now have in the business," Ayala Land chairman Zobel de Ayala says. It is in these commercial here ALI interacts with millions of Filipinos om shoppers, moviegoers, to the entrepreneurs

> "Regardless of the value of the product that we are selling, the basic Ayala Land values should still be there. You may not have the same amenities – the units may be smaller – but there should be lasting quality and lasting value in these products. We want all our customers to be happy and proud to own our products."
> *– Fernando Zobel de Ayala, ALI Chairman*

that the centers host.

ALI lent more excitement to malling in the country with the redevelopment of the Makati Commercial Center – now called Ayala Center Makati – and the Alabang Town Center, the family shopping and entertainment destination in the south.

Its success lies in its relationship with its valued merchants.

Zenaida "Nedy" Tantoco, president of Rustan's Marketing Corporation and Store Specialists, Inc., regards Ayala Land as an esteemed partner.

"Ayala Land always has the priority in all our plans," she states. "It has been a good partnership." She recalls that her mother, the late Gliceria Rustia Tantoco, was among the first investors to set up shop at the Ayala Commercial Center by building the Rustan's Department Store. "My siblings and I practically grew up here," Tantoco adds. "Our relationship with Ayala is more than a landlord-tenant relationship."

ALI's innovations are best seen in its shopping center developments.

The redevelopment of upscale Greenbelt is the acid test that ALI's Commercial Centers Group (CCG) really knows its business. "From the outside, Greenbelt can be considered a huge gamble. At that time, we were in recession and in crisis; the economy was shrinking. The entire retail market was moving to cheaper, more value-oriented merchandise. In the midst of all that, we developed a lifestyle center catering to the upper end of the market. What's more, it was much more expensive to build because the design was intrinsically expensive – not a basic box but a building with character. Even our architects doubted that we would build it as designed. But we knew what our customers would appreciate," shares Ayala Land president Francisco H. Licuanan III.

Greenbelt is the country's first lifestyle center, as CCG assembled over 100 top brands, restaurants, coffee shops, and bars – the largest number of entertainment choices in any single location –within it.

The formula was a hit. It won instant patronage, pulling out customers from other food and entertainment centers in Metro Manila.

"We never doubted the concept." declares Miriam Katigbak, ALI senior vice president and head of CCG. "Greenbelt is unique as it integrates dining and shopping with a 'softscape'– a 2.8-hectare park with themed gardens, water features, and elevated walkways that connect to the central business district and Glorietta."

Aside from the valued relationships with its merchants, innovation is a key strength of ALI shopping centers.

VERDANA HOMES: A warm and safe community ten minutes from Alabang Town Center

Taking advantage of the world-class setting that hosts dynamic lifestyle choices, ALI also constructed high-end townhouses called The Residences at Greenbelt, which are available for lease. Nearby, three residential condominium towers, collectively called by the same name, were also launched to an appreciative market. Buyers of this property will have direct access to the mall and the business center through an ingenious walkway system.

Fulfilling dreams for more Filipinos

Another exciting development for ALI is the expansion of product lines to cater to middle and mass markets. Now, average income earners may experience the quality of community living attached to the Ayala name – the same developer which built Forbes Park and Ayala Alabang Village out of marshlands. To focus on these markets, ALI established a subsidiary – Laguna Properties Holdings, Inc. (LPHI) in 1993.

San Alfonso Homes in Naga City was LPHI's early venture into mass housing. San Antonio Homes and San Rafael Estates, nestled at the foothills of Mt. Makiling, and St. Alexandra Estates in Antipolo followed suit, to address underserved markets east of Metro Manila.

One Aeropolis condominium in Sucat, Paranaque marks the subsidiary's entry into affordable medium-rise living, with units surprisingly selling below P1 million. LPHI also developed its first farm estate – Hacienda Sta. Monica – in cool Lipa, attracting gentlemen farmers and flower enthusiasts into a weekend escape.

Then there is Riego de Dios Village in Tanza, Cavite. LPHI's housing project for the military is drawing a lot of attention because of its unbelievably low pricing from P281,000 to P676,000. With Pag-ibig financing, amortization can be as low as P3,389 a month – definitely within reach of underpaid military personnel.

All these mass housing projects are carefully masterplanned as communities, with the full amenities of landscaped parks and playground, roads, telecommunications facilities, safe water, and a bevy of recreational facilities - truly a trademark of Ayala's integrity and thoroughness as a property developer.

"We look at ourselves as community builders. We build communities for people, then for the high-end and now for the middle and mass markets. It is generating a lot of excitement inside ALI," Licuanan enthuses.

"Regardless of the value of the product that we are selling, the basic Ayala Land values should still be there. You may not have the same amenities – the units may be smaller – but there should be lasting quality and lasting value in these products. We want all our customers to be happy and proud to own our products," Zobel de Ayala declares.

ALI SVP and LPHI president Manuel Colayco says, "LPHI's products are so designed and priced to cater to the needs of 60 percent of the country's population. The demand of such a constituency requires from us, at the very least, meeting the standard of decent housing in terms of quality, security and comfort of communities at all levels of pricing."

"Maintaining these standards is a primary concern and is in keeping with the character of Ayala Land, our mother company," Colayco affirms.

Other business interests

As if the real estate business projects were not enough, ALI is still into a myriad of other businesses. It is into construction (through Makati Development Corporation); into property management (through the Ayala Property Management Corporation); and into hotel development with major hotels, such as Hotel Inter-Continental Manila, Oakwood Premier Ayala Center and Cebu Marriot.

It also has a stake in infrastructure development, having a 16-percent stake in Metro Rail Transit Corp. which undertook the MRT-3 Project along Edsa, a strategic position in infrastructure that will matter in the future of the country's real estate development. ALI also mulled over investing in a rail project leading to the South.

Somehow, ALI has become bigger than the dream its founders had before its spin-off from Ayala Corporation. But more important than what it has become is who it has reached.

The lives of millions of Filipinos are touched daily through ALI's projects. To a great number, ALI's projects form the backdrop from which their dreams are made, cast and again fulfilled.

And as long as people keep on dreaming, ALI knows it will continue building – and it will lay the groundwork on which even more dreams will be built.

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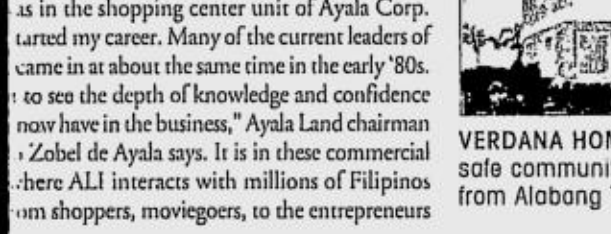
1997

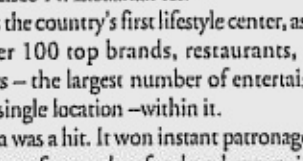
- Cebu Marriot opens.
- Work on the expansion of the Alabang Town Center begins.
- LPHI reaches out to Batangas, Lucena, and Naga.
- Development of Pavillion Mall, a joint venture with Extraordinary Completion, begins.
- ALI launches Ayala North Point in Bacolod, the Company's first residential subdivision outside Luzon.



Sta. Rosa Estates is conveniently situated near schools, a church and a commercial center.

1998

- ALI celebrates its 10th year anniversary with Project Odyssey articulating ALI's vision and reaffirming basic values.
- The Construction Management Group is awarded an ISO 9002 certification.
- A one-stop-shop customer service division is created.
- The company introduces buyer financing programs for high-end subdivisions and middle-income housing.
- Glorietta 4 opens.
- Development begins on Ayala Westgrove Heights, ALI's maiden project in the 2,500-hectare Ayala South.
- Ayala Heights Cebu is launched.
- Ferndale Homes marks ALI's initial venture into upscale house-and-lot packages.
- LPHI launches a pilot test marketing effort in Italy to tap the OFW market.



City Sports Club Cebu: exclusive, prestigious, and world-class - perfect for business or leisure

1999

- Plans for the development of Greenbelt are finalized.
- Ayala Life-FGU Center on Ayala Avenue is completed.
- Strategic Business Units are created.
- Metrostar Express opens.
- The Cebu City Sports Club is launched

2000

- Work begins on Greenbelt's redevelopment
- Ayala Greenfield Estates in Calamba, Laguna is launched in March.

2001

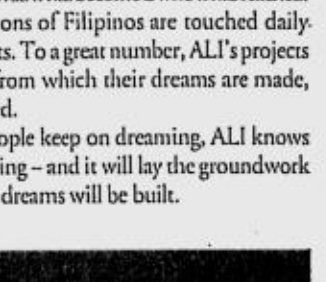
- ALI completes construction of two mass transit-based commercial centers: Ayala MRT Station at Ayala Center, and Metro Point at the corner of EDSA and Taft.
- Paseo de Magallanes is launched.
- Internally, ALI starts its asset rationalization program and SAP. It also creates a Buyer Financing Department.

2002

- ALI issues of P1.06B Fixed Rate Corporate Notes
- The Company enters the core-mid residential market with Verdana Homes under the newly-formed subsidiary Community Innovations, Inc. The project is well-received by the public.
- To provide an additional distribution channel for its products, ALI forms Ayala Land Sales, Inc., an exclusive all-commission sales force.
- The Company issues P3.0B bonds.
- Work on Market! Market!, a five-level value shopping destination, commences.
- Ayala Center receives a "Mall of the Year" award.
- The Leisure and Lifestyles Communities Group is created.
- LPHI opens an office in Rome, Italy.
- The BCDA awards development rights to ALI for the 8.5-hectare Lot B in Fort Bonifacio.
- ALI re-enters the high-end residential condominium market with the launch of One Legazpi Park.
- The Company is awarded by Asiamoney magazine as the country's Best in Financial Management.

2003

- Ayala Land, Inc. acquires controlling interest in Fort Bonifacio Global City, assuring additional ample prime inventory for the future.
- LPHI launches One Aeropolis, its first mass-housing condominium project



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Whoever said that you couldn't predict the future didn't own Ayala land.

Past. *In 1977, Ayala Land began selling a large yet unknown piece of land in the South with the vision of turning it into one of the country's most coveted premium residential properties. A few brave families shared this vision and bought land at two-hundred forty pesos per square meter. They called it their new home. Ayala called it Ayala Alabang.* **Present.** *Twenty-six years later, lots in Ayala Alabang have appreciated 83 times their original value, with lots selling for as much as twenty-two thousand pesos per square meter. The original families still live there, joined by new ones who have chosen to take root on Ayala land. The same story goes for any Ayala property. Old or new, each piece of land is a store of value for the future.* **Future.** *From residential condominiums, to vacation farm homes, to golf communities and life-long investments, the future can only be good for any piece of Ayala land. So whether your idea of a dream tomorrow is waking up in the middle of lush mango groves or right smack in the middle of one of the country's most exciting commercial centers, learn from the past and own a piece of Ayala land.*

AYALA COMMUNITIES

Each square meter is a store of value for the future.

AYALA LAND

Call 848 5000 • e-mail: ayalasales@ayalaland.com.ph • Log on to www.ayalaland.com.ph

AYALA Hillside Estates

AYALA GREENFIELD ESTATES

An AYALA South Community

AYALA Westgrove Heights

An AYALA Community THE RESIDENCES at GREENBELT

AYALA North Point

AYALA Heights Cebu

MONTGOMERY PLACE

An AYALA Community

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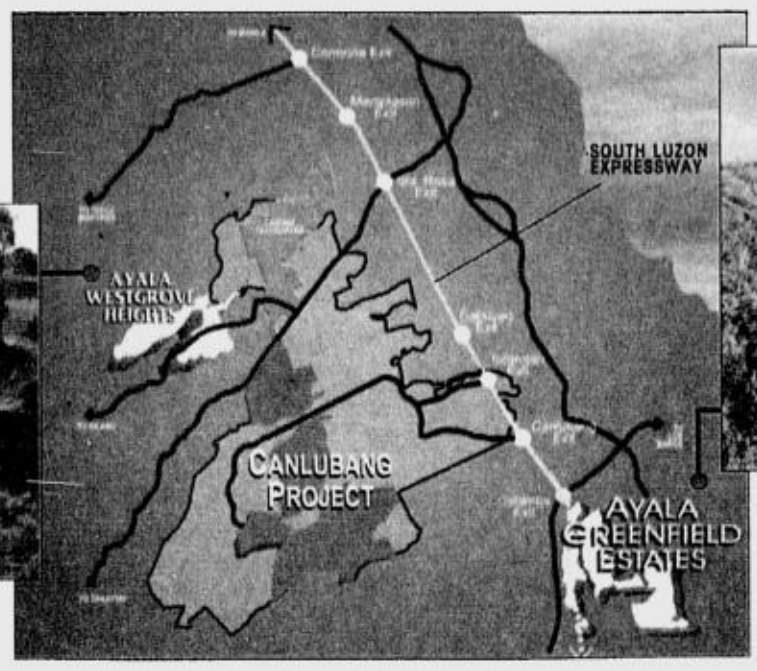


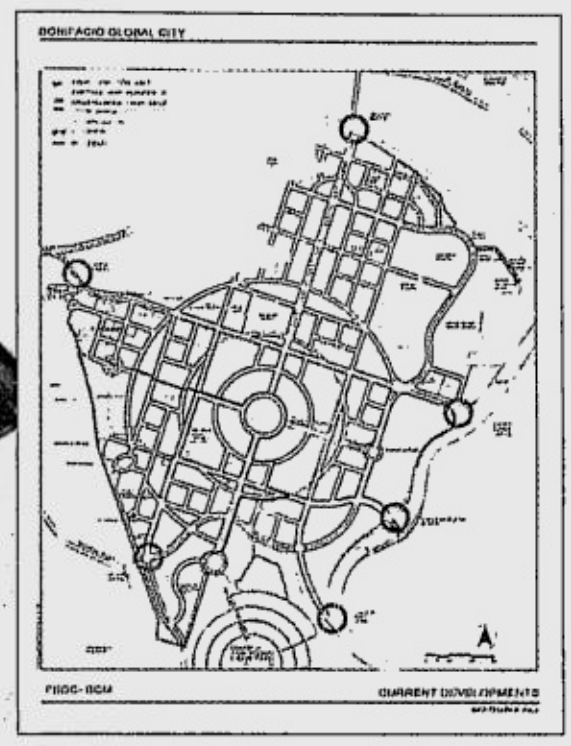
AYALA GREENFIELD ESTATES: Live the game.

ALI'S blueprint for what is now known as Ayala South is a grand, complete plan– with a variety of projects serving a variety of people.

"We would like ALI to continue to be a leader in innovation. Customer needs and preferences will change and our products will change with them. But the way we do business and our corporate values will remain the same. We will always produce quality products that sustain their value over time." – *Fernando Zobel de Ayala, ALI Chairman*

THE AYALA LAND LEGACY

Faith in the future



Bonifacio Global City grid map.

MORE PRODUCTS FOR MORE MARKETS

"OUR dream at ALI is to be able to reach a larger segment of our population with more affordable products. We will certainly make sure that we do not lose our unique position at the high end of the market. But over time, I would anticipate that a higher percentage of our sales will come from a whole range of more affordable products. For several years now, we have been investing in technology to allow us to build faster and at a lower cost without sacrificing quality."

With these words, Ayala Land chairman Fernando Zobel de Ayala provides a distinct roadmap for the real estate leader's future. It is a picture of a future that sees ALI products and services touching even more lives.

The middle-income market

While Ayala Land, Inc. has always been known for its quality and cutting-edge high-end real estate offerings, the company is also aware of a higher obligation and responsibility to provide superior homes to a greater number of people.

ALI's commitment to do just that is embodied in the establishment of wholly owned subsidiaries Laguna Properties Holdings, Inc. and Community Innovations, Inc. These companies inherited the Ayala tradition of innovation, and are a testament to ALI's expertise in coming up with distinct and responsive products to specific markets.

Launched in 1993, Laguna Properties Holdings, Inc. quickly established a foothold in the mass-market housing industry with its affordable products made using international building systems. It now boasts a wide array of projects in numerous diverse locations like Antipolo, Naga, Batangas, Laguna and Cavite – to name a few.

It has also come up with unique products such as Hacienda Sta. Monica in Lipa, an ideal haven for "gentleman farmers," and raised the standards in affordable housing via its master-planned, gated communities such as St. Alexandra Estates in Antipolo.

In 2002, ALI opened Community Innovations, Inc. to come up with well-planned residential communities for a burgeoning market of young urban achievers. Its initial projects, the residential subdivision Verdana Homes in Bacoor, Cavite and the three-tower, 30-storey residential building Columns in Makati, were warmly received by the market and have enjoyed brisk sales.

Ayala Land's foray into a wider market is being manifested not just in its residential projects but commercial centers operation as well.

Bargain hunters will soon have a new haunt in the sprawling Market! Market!, a five-level value mall to rise on a 9.8-hectare site next to the Bonifacio Global City. Set to open next year, the mall will be anchored by a leading supermarket chain and promises 150,000 square meters of leasable space.

Corollary to this effort of diversification is a conscious desire for quality. "Regardless of the value of the product, ALI wants to make sure that it treats all its customers fairly. Pride of ownership, quality and lasting value should apply to all our products regardless of whether they are buying a more affordable or more expensive product," Zobel de Ayala declares.

South bound

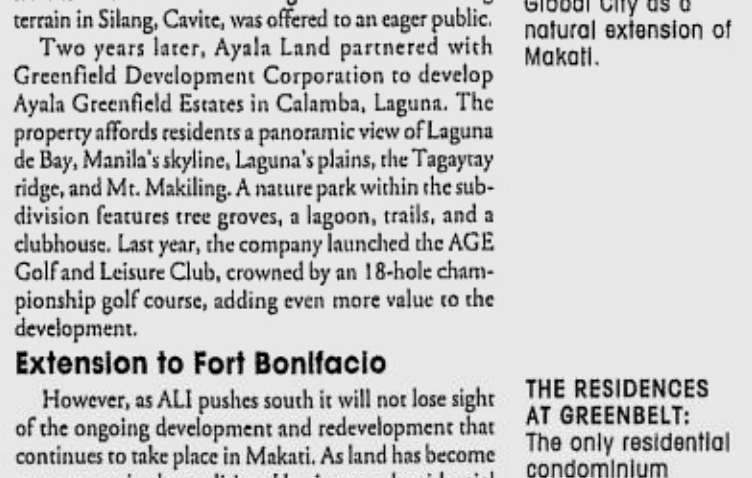
No other entity may have influenced the rapid growth of property south of Metro Manila more than Ayala. It was one of the first companies to recognize the great potential of this area. Displaying the same foresight it showed to develop Makati, ALI set out to build new communities in the south starting with Alabang.

Ayala Alabang became a vibrant residential community within a few years and was followed by the development of both a shopping center (Alabang Town Center) and a business park (Madrigal Business Park) in 1991. The objective was to provide office space for people closer to their homes in the south.

The following year, Ayala Land – together with Mitsubishi Corp. and Kawasaki Steel Corp. – established the Laguna Technopark. The property, through its initial investment site in Sta. Rosa and Biñan, also set new standards for industrial estates.

And ALI did not stop there. The company's most ambitious plan has just started. Ayala South, an area that covers over 2,000 hectares of land within Laguna and Cavite, will be ALI's most important new community development for the next 20 to 30 years. Using the knowledge that it has built in Makati and all its other developments, ALI has set out to design a grand plan for this new community in the South.

"Community development, at the scale we do it, is a delicate balance between anticipating demographic trends and influencing them. But if you do it right, you can have a profound influence on the future of an entire region," says Vincent Y. Tan, Ayala Land EVP for Planning.



FRANCISCO H. Licuanan III and Fernando Zobel de Ayala view Bonifacio Global City as a natural extension of Makati.

Some of the initial developments offer a glimpse into the future of this area.

In 1998, Ayala Westgrove Heights, a prime residential subdivision amid lush mango orchards and rolling terrain in Silang, Cavite, was offered to an eager public.

Two years later, Ayala Land partnered with Greenfield Development Corporation to develop Ayala Greenfield Estates in Calamba, Laguna. The property affords residents a panoramic view of Laguna de Bay, Manila's skyline, Laguna's plains, the Tagaytay ridge, and Mt. Makiling. A nature park within the subdivision features tree groves, a lagoon, trails, and a clubhouse. Last year, the company launched the AGE Golf and Leisure Club, crowned by an 18-hole championship golf course, adding even more value to the development.

Extension to Fort Bonifacio

However, as ALI pushes south it will not lose sight of the ongoing development and redevelopment that continues to take place in Makati. As land has become more scarce in the traditional business and residential districts of Makati, Ayala Land has set out to make its next bold move in the area.

In November 2002, ALI and the Campos Group acquired control of Bonifacio Land Corporation. This has given the partnership a firm hold on the development of Bonifacio Global City.

"We view Bonifacio Global City as a natural extension of Makati, and this investment assures us of ample inventory over the long-term," said ALI president Francisco H. Licuanan III.

"Fort Bonifacio is an exciting new opportunty for us. It comes at a challenging time, but we've always remembered that some of our best strategic moves at ALI and Ayala have been made during periods of great economic volatility. This is when projects are priced more attractively and there are fewer bidders for each deal. We hope to replicate in Fort Bonifacio what we have done in Makati," said Zobel de Ayala.

In for the long haul

Much of what ALI has laid out for its future is characteristic of its long-term thinking. Bonifacio Global City will serve as a new landbank for the expansion of the business and residential districts of Makati and Taguig over the next 20 to 30 years. Ayala South, on the other hand, provides the opportunity once again for ALI to do what it does best – the planning of large-scale communities.

But Zobel de Ayala summarizes that long-term bets cannot be made unless the company and its managers have faith in the country. "You will not survive in our country if you are constantly alarmed by political and economic events. We live in a young democracy that will continue to have problems as it develops and grows. You've simply got to decide whether, at the end of the day, you've got faith in your country. We do; and we have maintained that faith through many generations and despite the major upheavals. If we build financial prudence into our management decisions and make strategic bets with confidence we will succeed. We have seen it time and time again."

"We have to postulate that this country will develop no matter what; that there will be demand for new housing, office buildings and retail and entertainment centers. We have faith in the Philippines and we have confidence in the ability of our staff to develop innovative new products and adjust to changing circumstances," adds Licuanan.

Indeed, management's faith in the quality of its people has, over the years, proven to be a perfect match to its confidence in the business potential of the country. "More important than any of our investments in land and buildings has been our investment in the development of our people. We can honestly say that the quality of our organization is equal to the best in the world. The future of ALI is secure in their hands," says Mercedita S. Nolledo, ALI EVP for Resource Management.

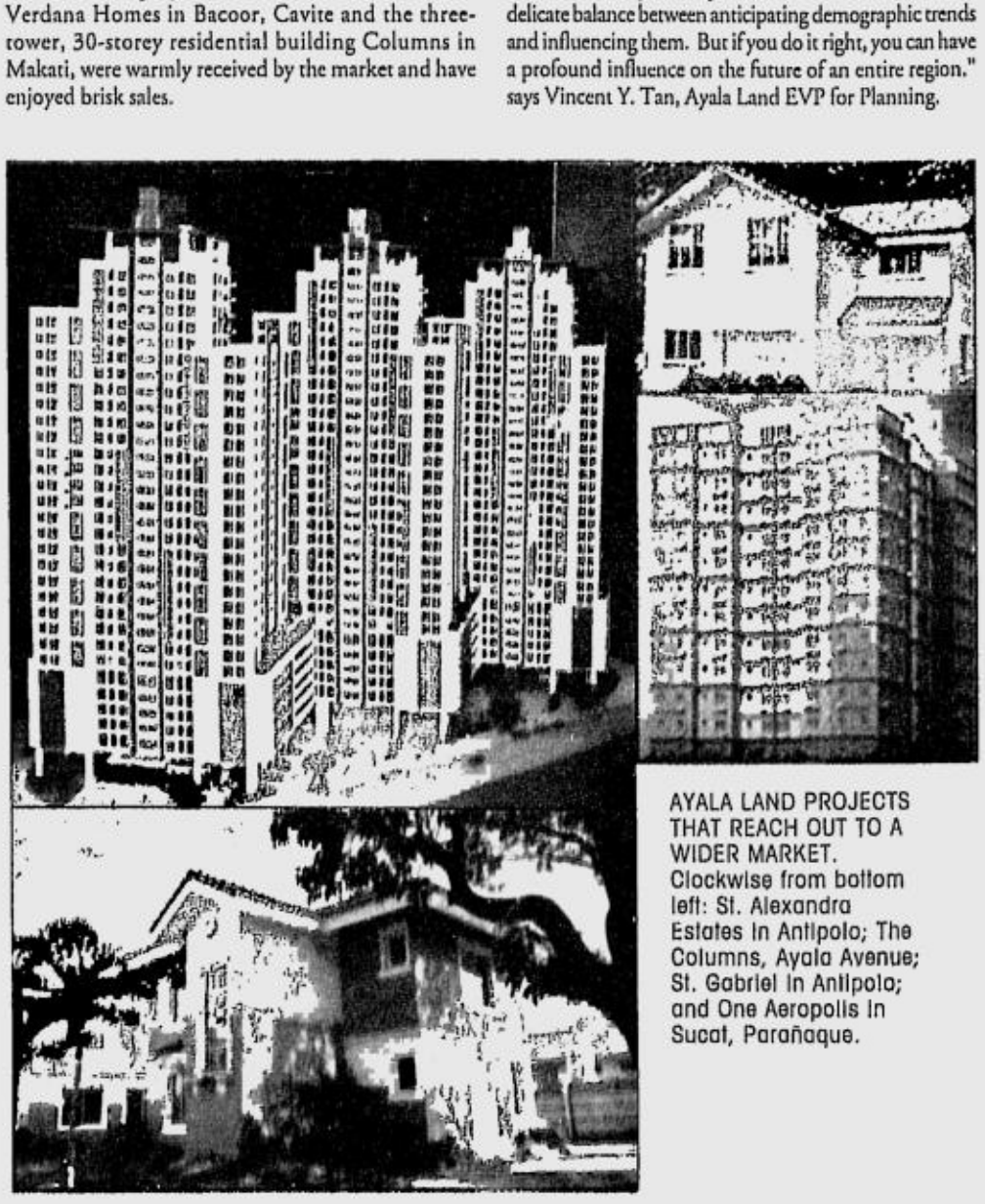
Such a vision of the future can only be realized if ALI continues to enjoy the confidence of its customers. Whatever the time and wherever the place, Ayala Land will always be striving to win and maintain the trust of an ever-growing stable of clients.

"Trust can only be earned over time, and needs to be constantly nurtured through an ongoing commitment to quality, value and fairness in all our dealings," says Zobel de Ayala.

ALI president Licuanan puts it simply: "We are there for the long term. We don't just sell and make money and go away. We will see our customer again."

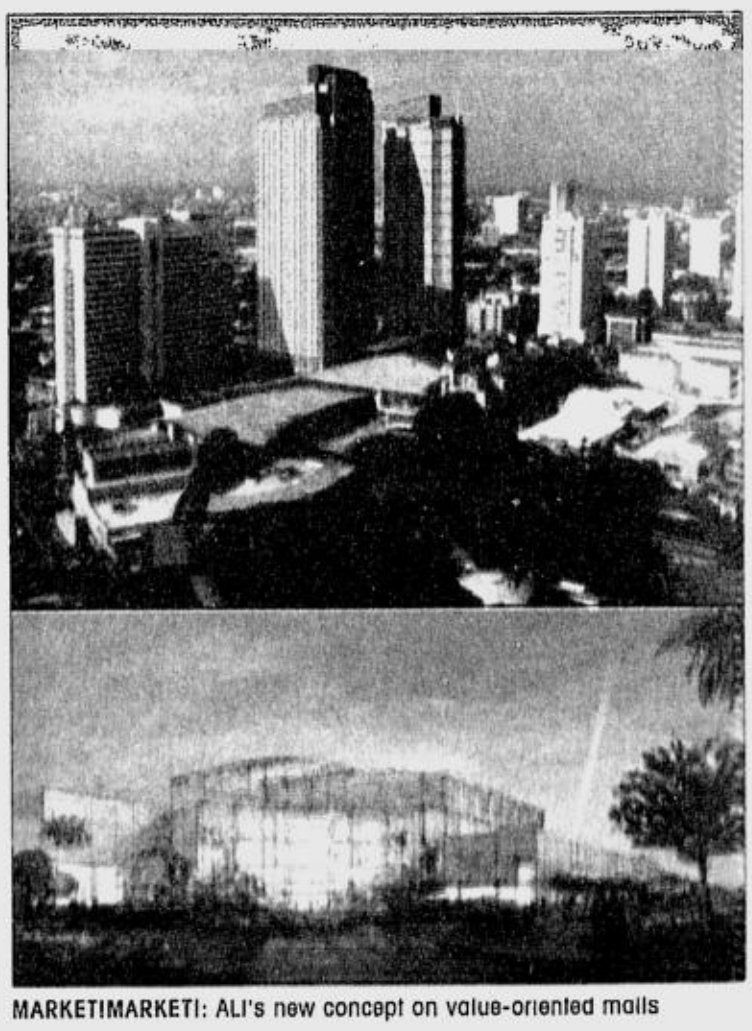
Consistency and change

Both Zobel de Ayala and Licuanan share the same vision for the future of Ayala Land. "We would like ALI to continue to be a leader in innovation. Customer needs and preferences will change and our products will change with them. But the way we do business and our corporate values will remain the same. We will always produce quality products that sustain their value over time. We will deal fairly with all our publics. And we will enable our employees to find fulfillment in their work."



AYALA LAND PROJECTS THAT REACH OUT TO A WIDER MARKET. Clockwise from bottom left: St. Alexandra Estates in Antipolo; The Columns, Ayala Avenue; St. Gabriel in Antipolo; and One Aeropolis in Sucat, Parañaque.

THE RESIDENCES AT GREENBELT: The only residential condominium situated within the Greenbelt complex.



MARKETIMARKET!: ALI's new concept on value-oriented malls

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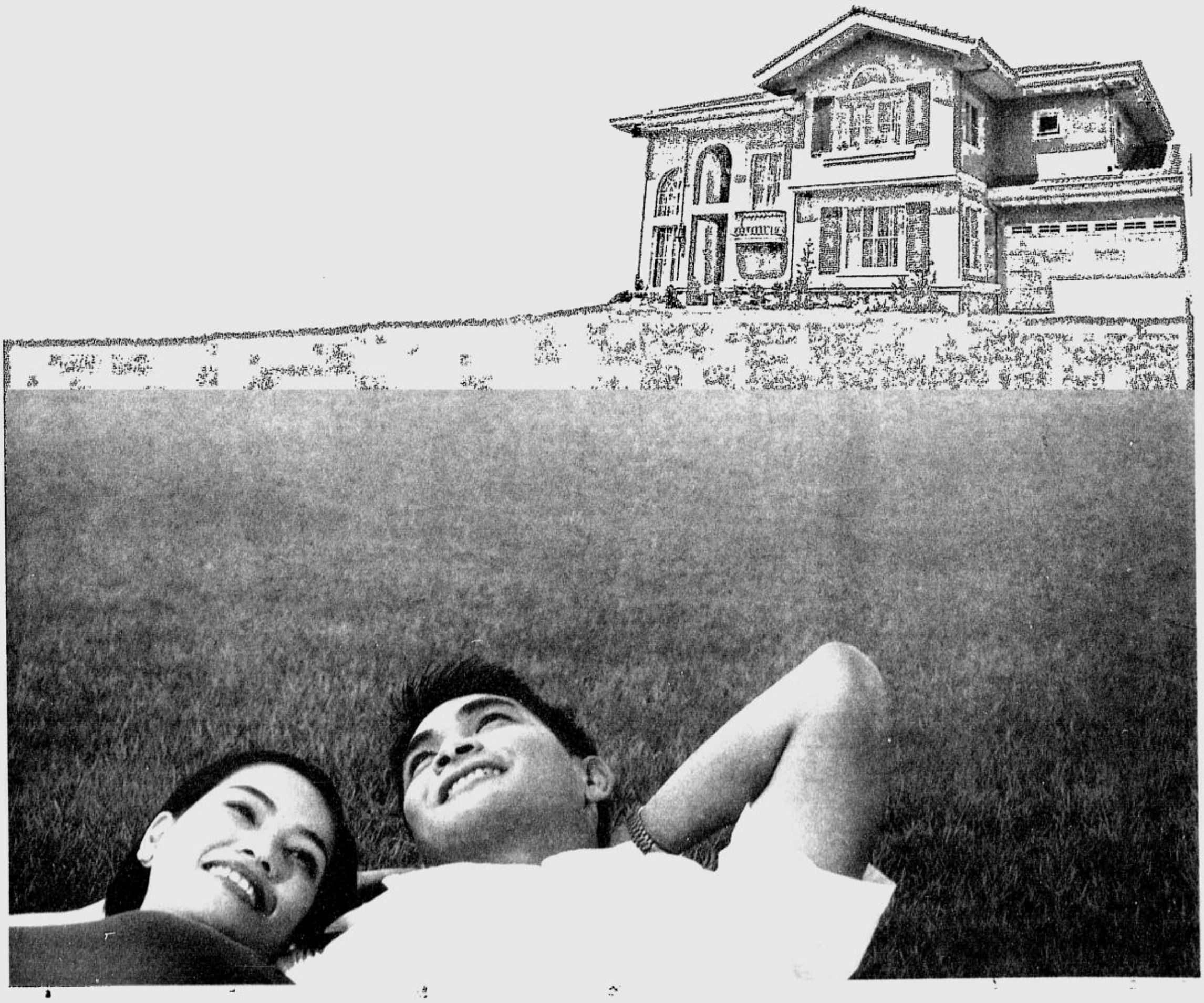
AYALA LAND

XV

AT FIFTEEN!



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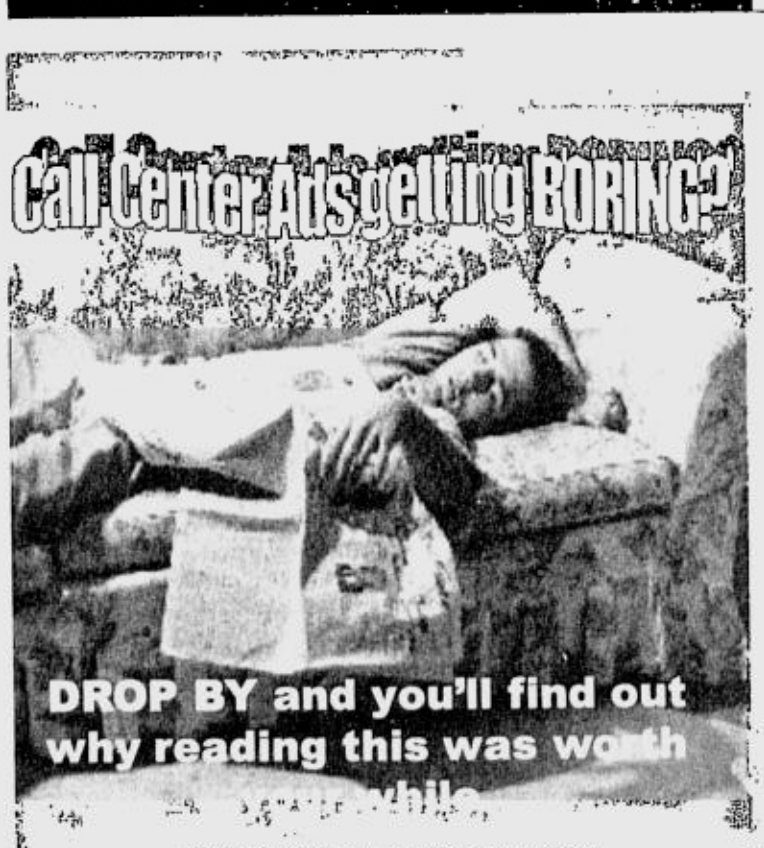

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- With supervisory skills

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- Result oriented, highly trainable
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- Coordinates preparation of data, tables/charts, and checks data quality of the Asian Development Outlook (ADO), reviews underlying data, tables/charts of other publications; provides inputs on quantitative economic information, economic projections and policy scenarios to other departments/offices using econometric models and system;
- Develops and manages an economic database system and country-specific econometric models for economic research/analysis; supervises the collection of quantitative data from virtual libraries, internet sites, on-line applications and other research organizations; implements data consistency and closure checks to ensure convergence between different economic accounts; and coordinates with Office of Information Systems and Technology (QIST) and other Information Technology (IT) firms on developments in information technology and improvement in standards for database management;
- Coordinates ERD activities on economic modeling, economic database management, and data system development; reviews methodological and measurement issues on economic indicators for Developing Member Countries (DMCs); supervises economic research and data-gathering activities of other economic analysts/local consultant; coordinates with other departments/divisions to facilitate flow/exchange, and management of on-line information resources/ data system;
- Undertakes administrativb work on divisional information management and data quality control, and supports highly quantitative research activities/ assignments; coordinates with other divisions to address methodological and measurement issues on economic indicators used for DMCs; reviews set of economic indicators to respond to evolving economic structures in the region and to address intermittent shocks that perturb the overall trends across the DMCs; does benchmarking exercise with other ADB databases or models to test data consistency and generated results; and evaluates aptness of models and economic research/analysis system through regular diagnostic tests and evaluation runs.

Selection Criteria
- Suitability to undertake the above responsibilities at the required level;
- Master's degree in Economics or Statistics with specialized training in econometrics;
- At least ten years work experience in any related field, five years of which should have been devoted specifically to developing econometric models or information databases;
- Good knowledge and understanding of quantitative economics, database management, economic policy issues and development trends in DMCs;
- In-depth knowledge and understanding of the research process with training or teaching experience;
- A strong background in data compilation and analysis and hands-on experience in applied econometrics and model building;
- Proficiency in oral and written English;
- Ability to integrate procedures, policies and requirements on conferences, seminars, symposia, workshops, training programs and other activities; and
- Computer proficiency, particularly in using spreadsheets, statistical/econometric, database applications, and knowledge in implementing automated routines.

Reporting Arrangements
The position reports to the Chief Economist through Assistant Chief Economist, Macroeconomics and Finance Research Division.

Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its national officers locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-NO03-076(4)- EROD** and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on http://www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: **CS-jobs@adb.org** by **3 October 2003**.

Human Resources Division,
Asian Development Bank
P.O. Box 789,0980 Manila Philippines

Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

WANTED

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With experienced in construction of industrial plants.

Apply at:
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ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Who will handle bookkeeping, cash management, AR and AP collection schedule, among others.

Qualifications:
- Female, 25 to 35 years old
- Bachelor of Accountancy, CPA Graduate
- Dynamic, fast learner, self starter, team-worker, and strong drive to succeed
- Computer literate in MS Office '97 and Excel
- Good command of written and spoken English, Chinese speaking is an advantage
- Willing to start immediately

This is an opportunity to enjoy a challenging career in a dynamic growing Company.

To the most qualified candidates, we offer above average compensation package.

Interested applicants may send their application letter, resumé/ curriculum vitae with recent 2x2 photo to

The Office Manager
141-B Shaw Boulevard
Mandaluyong City

Only written application sent to the above address will be considered. The short-listed candidate shall be notified.

A progressive study center in the Katipunan area is in need of highly competent individuals for the following positions:

MANAGING DIRECTOR
- College graduate, pref marketing or business admin course from top universities
- Must have excellent marketing and customer relation skills

PART-TIME TUTORS
- At least 2nd year college pref from top universities
- Tutoring experience preferred

Please-email resumé — at creative_tutorial@yahoo.com

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(1) **REFLEXOLOGY**
20-35 years old, female college level with experience, pleasing personality

(1) **SALES ASSOCIATE**
20-25 years old, female college grad with pleasing personality, with experience at least 5'5 in height

Apply at Unit 512 5th Flr., The Podium, #18 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. Tel# 634-3804

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IMPEX ASSISTANT - Female not over 35 yrs old can handle negotiation w/ BOC, GTEB & others at least 2-3 yrs exp

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San Roque, Marikina
Tel No 6821452-53

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CRS
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Catholic Relief Services, the overseas relief and development agency of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (CRS-USCCB), Philippine Program is establishing the CRS Regional Learning Center (RLC) based in Manila. RLC provides capacity building support for institutions through the use organizational learning systems to inform and customize training and technical assistance in the field of microfinance. RLC seeks to document the wealth of knowledge about microfinance from individuals and institutions across the region and leverage this knowledge into tangible business benefits that translates into improved financial services for the poor.

We therefore need highly qualified individuals for the following contractual positions:

LEARNING MANAGER

The Learning Manager is responsible for leading RLC and client institutions in a collaborative effort to create innovative learning activities that advance the ability of staff to serve its clients in the field of microfinance. He/She will design, develop, implement and manage a comprehensive and innovative training and education program among client-institutions across the region. This also includes the development of management and employee enhancement initiatives, as well as efforts to support business and cultural change initiatives that benefit employee motivation, morale and workplace efficiency.

Qualifications

- Master's Degree in Business Administration with at least five years experience in implementing learning management systems, with three years in a leadership role
- At least two years work experience in a microfinance institution in a developing country, preferred
- Proven experience with intranet/internet web- based technologies, web publishing, authoring tools/ graphics and data repository/data management tools
- Excellent English communication and presentation skills (verbal and written)
- Ability to multi-task and work within a dynamic, flexible work environment; Self motivated with a high degree of initiative, requiring minimal supervision; Creative problem solving skills
- Demonstrated ability to interface with all levels of management (domestically and internationally) as well as a good understanding of the implications of diversity in the global workplace preferably with experience in working in an international organization overseas
- Computer literate in MS Word and Excel with ability to master other software quickly; Willing and able to travel and committed to development work

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT) SPECIALIST

The ICT Specialist will manage and support communication and computer systems for the RLC and for advising partner and affiliate client institutions about their systems in order to ensure adequate communication and knowledge exchange capacities. He/She will undertake microfinance organizational analysis and capacity building services for the RLC clients. To support microfinance learning and capacity-building, the position is responsible for developing and deploying innovative applied knowledge management (AKM) and other support technologies that advance the RLC's capacities to serve its client institutions and to generate high quality learning, documentation, and reporting.

Qualifications

- Degree in Computer Science, Business Administration, Development Management, or other related courses; Masters degree, preferred
- With at least three years experience applying ICT concepts including database management, financial reporting, generating financial and narrative reports, etc.
- At least two years work experience in microfinance operations in a developing country, preferred
- Computer literate in MS Word and Excel. Solid understanding of current ICT, database, Internet, etc. technologies, including the ability to support Microsoft Operating Systems and Office tools, such as Microsoft NT and XP, and systems hardware configuration
- Broad knowledge of current market technologies, such as Remote Access Options (DSL and Cable), Desktop Installation, Configuration and Maintenance, Networking technologies (LAN/WAN) to include installing and supporting a Wireless Environment
- Strong understanding of AKM concepts, theory, and learning systems, and ability to market these to clients, fellow practitioners, government agencies, donors, etc.
- Excellent English communication skills (verbal and written)
- Willing and able to travel and committed to development work

TRAINING SPECIALIST

The Training Specialist will work closely with the management and staff of RLC, local training institutes, consultants and client institutions to conduct innovative learning/training activities for client institutions that advance the ability of staff to serve its clients in the field of microfinance. He/She shall be responsible in designing, developing, conducting, and monitoring learning, training and development activities to ensure adequate support to microfinance partners and clients of the RLC.

Qualifications

- Degree in Business Administration, Development Management, or other related courses; Masters degree, preferred
- At least three years as a trainer preferably in microfinance-related projects/programs; Knowledgeable on adult education techniques and principles
- At least two years work experience in a developing country, preferred
- Excellent English communication and presentation skills (verbal and written)
- Ability to multi-task and work within a dynamic, flexible work environment
- Self motivated with a high degree of initiative, requiring minimal supervision; People yet results oriented
- Computer literate in MS Word and Excel. Willing and able to travel. Committed to development work

Interested individuals must submit an application letter, comprehensive resumé with personal references via e-mail on or before **October 12, 2003** to:

THE RLC DIRECTOR
Catholic Relief Services-USCCB, Philippine Program
Intramuros, Manila
E-mail: **hr-admin@crs-org.ph**

(Only qualified applicants will be notified.)

CRS
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Catholic Relief Services, the overseas relief and development agency of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (CRS-USCCB), Philippine Program needs a highly qualified individual for a contractual position of:

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TTA) COORDINATOR
Microfinance Alliance Fund

The Microfinance Alliance Fund (MAF) is a joint project started in 2000 between Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the Catholic Organization for Relief and Development (CORDAID), a Dutch agency. MAF assists microfinance institutions in Southeast Asia to achieve the transformation process to self-sustainable financial institutions that provide access to the needs of credit and other financial services to the poor.

The TTA Coordinator is responsible for identifying and providing the training and capacity building needs of microfinance institutions and potential partners supported by the MAF. His/Her responsibilities include, but are not limited to, setting-up a pool of individuals and organizations from Southeast Asia that can provide training and technical assistance to MAF-partners; conducting training needs assessments, assisting in the preparation of training modules, monitoring progress of training and technical assistance, preparing operational plans and budgets for the MAF's capacity building component. He/She must ensure timely, effective, and efficient delivery of these services.

Qualifications

- A postgraduate degree, preferably an MBA from a reputable university, with sound grounding of Economics, Finance, and Accounting
- At least five (5) years experience in microfinance institutions; Preferably with experience working on microfinance program in a developing country
- Demonstrated capacity and experience in institutional diagnosis, training and technical assistance with organizations involved in microfinance
- Good knowledge of the microfinance sector in an international context, particularly in Southeast Asian region
- Excellent English communication skills (verbal and written)
- Strong network with government, non-government, and Church organizations, particularly those involved in the microfinance sector
- Computer literate in MS Word and Excel with ability to master other microfinance software quickly
- Willing and able to travel in Southeast Asia region at least 20 days a month;
  Can work independently with minimal supervision

Interested individuals must submit an application letter, comprehensive resumé with personal references via e-mail on or before **October 17, 2003** to:

THE MICROFINANCE RTA
Catholic Relief Services-USCCB, Philippine Program
Intramuros, Manila
E-mail: **hr-admin@crs-org.ph**
(Only qualified applicants will be notified.)

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E-MAIL OR SEND YOUR APPLICATION AND RESUMÉ
on or before September 30, 2003 to:
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Tel. No.: (632) 637-5457
E-Mail: Redin.Aliling@apcc.com

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

BOOKKEEPER

Female not more than 30 years old
Accounting graduate
Preferably with experience
Preferably a Metro Manila resident

Apply in person with resumé at
U# 3303 Antel Global Corporate Center
Dna. Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig
From 2 pm to 5 pm every Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri.

PRODUCT SALES SPECIALIST

• Male, 25-35 years old to handle sales of packaging materials • Engineering, Chemistry or Marketing graduate w/ experience in packaging • Good oral & written communication skill • Computer literate.

Submit bio-data w/ picture, transcript, diploma to:

MACRO DYNAMICS INT'L. INC.
Rm 202 Estuar Bldg 41 Timog Avenue, Q.C.
Tels: 4113398/3732067-76
E-mail: macdyna@i-next.net

Save the Children®

Save the Children Federation, Inc. is a US-based non-profit organization working in over forty countries world wide, implementing community development projects that help children in need. Save the Children is searching for qualified candidates for:

NATIONAL PROGRAM COORDINATOR FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Reporting directly to the Education Manager of the Philippines Field Office, the ECD Coordinator will be primarily responsible for overall coordination of the early childhood development efforts of the Philippines Field Office. He/she will provide technical inputs to the ECD Coordinators in existing program areas related to the implementation of programs/projects under Save the Children's Sectoral Prpgram Initiatives Team (SPRINT). He/she shall also serve as a liaison for ECD initiatives between Save the Children and its partner agencies, where he/she may be requested to provide technical assistance to these partner agencies. He/she shall also provide assistance in resource generation for this sub-sector and for coordinating efforts in pursuing funding opportunities.

Key responsibilities:
The ECD Coordinator shall: (1) provide technical inputs for programming and decision-making related to early childhood development, (2) assist in preparing project proposals for submission either to funding agencies or to other Save the Children offices, and in developing/refining ECD strategies towards scaling up or institutionalization, (3) provide technical support to the ECD Coordinators in existing program areas, (4) prepare reports to funding agencies, home office, partner organizations and the Field Office Management, (5) Document experiences in sectoral programming for publication, technical presentation to local and international audience or for circulation among special groups.

The position will be based in Iloilo City and will require periodic travel to Manila, which is another program area and where the country office is based. During these trips, the ECD Coordinator is expected to prepare detailed scopes of work, trip reports and other relevant documentation.

Requirements:
This is a senior position requiring strong leadership and management skills. Previous work experience in a similar position in an international NGO is highly preferred. A Bachelor's degree in the social sciences (psychology, education or social work) or related discipline is required. Minimum of five years program development experience with demonstrated training and research skills. Fluency in English is required and knowledge of Hiligaynon is an advantage. Computer literacy is a must. Professional experience in a multi-cultural work setting is a plus.

Qualified applicants may send their resumes on or before September 30, 2003 to : *By mail* - CODE: ECD COORD, Save the Children Federation, Inc., No.1 Encarnacion Street corner Lapu-Lapu Avenue, Magallanes Village, Makati City, Metro Manila. *By fax*: (632) 853-02-15. *By e-mail*: allaneza@savechildren.org (please indicate code "ECD COORD" in subject line).

PETRON

The country's premiere oil refining and marketing company, committed to excellence, professionalism, integrity and fairness

invites empowered and dynamic professionals, who have at least 3 years experience preferably in a service-oriented company and handling positions in a similar capacity, to apply for the following positions:

Area Sales Executives

Responsible for providing marketing services to assigned account, sales promotion, and actual selling of petroleum products, and for securing new business with the company; engineering course graduates

Depot Utility Man

Will be responsible for order-taking, billing, dispatching, tank truck activities, bulk and package product inventory, maintenance of equipment, fuels, lubes aviation, ITP and LPG operations; should be willing to be relocated in Mindanao Area

Accounting Specialist

Will handle budget, treasury, accounting, credit and collection, audit, procurement, and financial reportorial requirements; preferably CPA

Engineers

Responsible for various plant operation and maintenance functions.

Process Engineers

Will be responsible in the technical aspects of the overall refinery process, operations, operating data analysis, energy efficiency and conservation, capable of conducting evaluation and process design of projects to improve the efficiency and safety of operations; Mechanical/Chemical engineering course graduates, Metro Manila residents willing to be relocated in Bataan are welcome to apply

Maintenance Technician

Will perform skilled preventive maintenance work, repairs and installation, overhaul, trouble-shooting, modification, overall calibration, adjustment, testing/balancing/fabrication on variety of: electrical and instrumentation systems, metal structures and piping systems, mechanical and rotating equipment; licensed Mechanical/ Chemical/Electrical engineering graduates, Metro Manila residents willing to be relocated in Bataan are welcome to apply

The candidates must have excellent oral and written communication skills, knowledgeable in Windows-based software applications; must be self-directed to exercise authority and decision, adaptable to the changing demands of the times, possessing a strong entrepreneurial spirit and team orientation.
Qualified applicants may send or mail their resume, transcript, and a 2x2 photo to:

The Human Resource Associate - Recruitment
Petron MegaPlaza 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. 1200 Makati City
Or e-mail their resume to: HRMD@petron.com
Indicate in the Subject Line: "Position Applying For: <Position>

The Marco Polo, Davao

A member hotel of the Marco Polo Hotel Group in Asia
is in need of qualified individuals to fill the following positions:

FRONT OFFICE MANAGER

- Male/Female not more than 35 years old
- Has extensive exposure in the hotel industry, with at least 5 years of experience in a similar capacity in a deluxe hotel.
- Systematic, analytical and result-oriented
- With high people management and administrative skills
- Must possess extensive knowledge in computer programs like the Fidelio System & MS Office Applications
- Has extensive hands-on experience in conducting training programs
- Must have at least 5 years experience in a similar capacity in a deluxe hotel.
- A team player, self-driven with strong leadership skills.
- Must be physically fit, proficient in the English language and preferably, the local dialect, and has an outgoing personality.

ASSISTANT MANAGER

- Preferably Male, not more than 30 years old
- With at least 3 years experience in the hotel industry in a similar capacity
- Must be willing to perform night shifts
- Excellent in oral and written English
- Assertive, self-motivated and with strong leadership skills
- Must possess extensive knowledge in the Fidelio System
- With pleasing personality, positive work attitude and excellent interpersonal skills
- Knowledge in a foreign language is an added advantage

Interested applicants may send their resumé with 2x2 photo
not later than October 15, 2003 to the address below:

Acting Human Resources Manager
The Marco Polo, Davao
C.M. Recto Street, Davao City

THE MARCO POLO
DAVAO
A Marco Polo Hotel

Hong Kong Ho Chi Minh City Xiamen Davao Beijing

dti

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

Join the DTI as

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and be part of the management team that manages the country's investment/export/SME development and promotion, and safeguards the welfare of consumers, as called for under E.O. 133, DTI's enabling mandate.

You will:

- Play a key role in ensuring that DTI-generated information and promotional materials (print and electronic, including Website) conform to DTI "branding" standards.
- Assist in special advocacy projects such as growing small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the countryside and lowering the cost of commonly used medicines.

Your major responsibilities will be:

- To manage/coordinate the communication/information efforts of various DTI agencies for message consistency, clarity and impact;
- To generate support for DTI policies/programs; and
- To inspire stakeholders/user publics to tap DTI services.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE POST ARE:

- General familiarity with global and local business/economic trends, notably in the area of exports, investments, SMEs and consumer affairs.
- Ability to deliver creative/strategic solutions to communication/information issues/ activities and to respond to new tasks rapidly.
- Proven ability to build effective internal and external relationships/networks.
- Excellent writing, editorial, presentational and organizing/mobilizing skills.
- At least 5 years experience in managing an information/communication team involved in both print and electronic media.
- Graphic/IT skills and Website savvy a plus.

SUBMIT FULL RESUMÉ TO:

The Director, Human Resource Development Service (HRDS)
6th Flr., Trade and Industry Building,
361 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati City
Email: *hrds@dti.dti.gov.ph*
Tel. Nos. **890-5936/890-4927**; Fax no. **890-4857**

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION IS ON
10 OCTOBER 2003, 5:00 p.m.
Applications filed after 5:00 p.m., 10 October 2003 will not be considered.

JOB OPENINGS FOR EXCELLENT PEOPLE

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Graduate of Communication Arts or Mass Communication, with at least two (2) years experience in conceptualizing, planning, administration of corporate events and evaluation of Corporate Communications program; Knowledge in Internal Communication, Intranet Visual Design/Website, Writing of Press Releases, Newsletter and Video Production. Supervisory level, adept in using MS Windows and Office Applications, knowledgeable in using desktop publishing and graphics programs. Good communication skills both oral and written.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT

Graduate of Business Course, Economics or Statistics. Exposed to basic office procedures, strong logic and marketing acumen; Computer literate. With a minimum experience of two (2) years in development of Marketing Frame works, Marketing Research and Preparation of Financial Feasibility Studies.

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Group Human Resource Department
20th Floor, LKG Tower, 6801 Ayala Avenue,
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PRODUCTION MANAGER OR NIGHT OPERATIONS MANAGER

- Graduate of BS in Engineering Food Technology or other technical fields
- Extensive work experience preferably from a food manufacturing company
- With track record in production operations & productivity improvements
- Has working knowledge of inventory management & logistics, engineering or preventive maintenance and quality assurance
- Possesses strong leadership skills and can relate well with all levels in the organization
- Knowledgeable in ISO and HACCP procedures and standards
- Must not be over 35 years old
- Willing to be assigned in the night/graveyard shift

PRODUCTION SUPERVISORS

- Graduate of BS in Engineering, preferably Mechanical, Electrical, Electronics and Communications, Chemical, Industrial or Civil, registered engineer preferred but not necessary
- At least three years supervisory experience preferably from food manufacturing company
- Must not be over 30 years old

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERS

- Graduate of BS in Industrial Engineering
- Should have very high analytical ability and have 2-3 years experience in similar position
- Must have hands-on experience on or be able to conduct methods study, time & motion study, materials handling & layout analysis and setting-up of labor and machine stardards
- Must have clear understanding of PERT/CPM concepts
- Must not be over 30 years old

ENGINEERING SUPERVISORS

- Graduate of BS in Engineering, preferably Mechanical Electrical, Electronics and Communications, registered engineer preferred but not required
- At least three years supervisory work experience on process; utilities and facilities operations and maintenance from a medium to large sized manufacturing plant
- Knowledgeable in safety and pollution control programs
- Must not be over 30 years old

QUALITY ASSURANCE SPECIALISTS/ENGINEERS

- Graduate of BS in Food Technology; Chemistry; Micro-Biology; Biology; Chemical Engineering & Bio-Chemistry
- Has working knowledge of Laboratory & QC procedures preferably from a food manufacturing company
- Knowledgeable in ISO & HACCP standards & procedures
- Must be between 22-27 years old

All candidates must be resident of Cavite or willing to relocate in Cavite.

APPLICANTS MAY SUBMIT THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ TO BE RECEIVED NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 30, 2003 TO:

P.O. Box No. 500
Classified Ads, Philippine Daily Inquirer
5th Flr., Bldg. B, SM Megamall
Edsa, Mandaluyong City
edsa1@yahoo.com

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recruitment@sviconnect.com (subject: applicant <Reference Code>)

SVI CONNECT

Is looking for:

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- *With at least 1 year experience in call center operations, customer relations, and/or sales in a supervisory capacity*
- *With strong sense of professional values*
- *Possesses excellent communication, data analysis and problem solving skills*

TEAM LEADERS (Ref. Code: TL)

- *With at least 1 year experience in call center operations, customer relations and/or sales*
- *Possesses excellent English communication skills*
- *Enthusiastic, creative and can motivate people*

TRAINORS (Ref. Code:TR)

- *With at least 1 year experience in conceptualizing, designing, implementing and conducting training modules for speech and sales skills programs*
- *With exceptional oral and written English communication skills*
- *Proficient in MS Office applications, especially MS Powerpoint*

CONTACT CENTER AGENTS (Ref. Code:CCA)

- *Highly conversant in English; with keen listening skills*
- *Very confident, aggressive, enthusiastic and motivated*
- *College graduate of any bachelor's degree*

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- Male (Single)
- Graduate of Mechanical/Electrical/ Electronics Engineering or equivalent
- At least 2 years working experience in a manufacturing firm
- In his mid 20's to late 30's
- Willing to assign in shifting schedule
- Computer literate (MS Office, Excel, Word & Power Point)
- Fast learner

Submit or e-mail your resumé with 2x2 ID picture to the attention of:

THE GENERAL MANAGER
at Bldg. 11 Phase 2 Vita Realty Compound
#108 Marcos Alvarez Ave., Bo. Talon 1, Las Piñas City 1747
E-mail address: csamparo@pacific.net.ph

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- With excellent communication skills
- Willing to start immediately

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MEP MECHANICAL ENGINEERS – Mechanical Engineering graduate with a minimum of five (5) years experience in supervision, coordination and implementation of Mechanical, Ventilation and Airconditioning System (MVAC), plumbing and drainage works
MEP ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS – BS Electrical graduate with a minimum of five (5) years experience in supervision, coordination and implementation of electrical works.
MEP SYSTEMS ENGINEER – BS Electrical Engineering graduate with a minimum of five (5) years experience in structured cabling and auxiliary coordination works
AUTOCADD OPERATOR – Graduate of Civil/Mechanical/ Electrical Engineering or B S Architecture graduate with a minimum of three (3) years experience in vertical construction
FIELD ARCHITECTURAL COORDINATOR – B.S Architecture graduate with a minimum of five (5) years experience in the architectural coordination and finishing works on site aspect of a vertical construction
CADET ARCHITECT/ENGINEER – B.S. Architecture/Civil Engineering graduate, can work long hours and willing to work even holidays.

Hand carry your curriculum vitaé with detailed job descriptions, certificates of previous and present employment, school credentials and recent 2 x 2 colored picture to:

SUMMA KUMAGAI INC. – KUMAGAI GUMI JOINT VENTURE
Meralco Compound, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City
(beside Meralco Foundation, Inc.)

ASIA'S LARGEST COMPANY
SUENCONSEJO-ILLUSTRADO & ASSOCIATES

URGENTLY NEEDS....

JUNIOR MANAGER
MANAGEMENT TRAINEE
CORPORATE ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

84-GRADUATES OF: PT, OT, RT, BSN & anh MED. courses
* License of Non-License & good pleasing personality
84-GRADUATES OF: IE, ECE, EE, ME, CE & Archi.
* Self-motivated & willing to undergo training
54-GRADUATES OF: BSC, Tourism, Educ., Philo & Psyc
* Managerial skill is an advantage
64- GRADUATES OF: CoE, ComSci & other IT related courses.
* Creative, good analysis & hardworking

** Age 20 to 35 years old, with or w/o experience. Willing to be assign in diff. positions available in the company
** Hiring starts on Sept. 29 to Oct. 4, 2003 (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM) **Accepted applicants from Sept. 29 to Oct. 4, 2003 will start immediately**

OFW & OCW ARE WELCOME TO APPLY

Interested applicants may apply personally with comprehensive resumé, original credential and 2x2 picture at:

#235-C Mercan Bldg., EDSA Ext'n., Pasay City (near Saver's Square & Allied Bank, walking distance from MRT Taft & LRT Edsa station)

Look for MS. ESTRADA

*** Bp this AD to your RESUME ***

A RAPIDLY GROWING FOOD CHAIN IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

STORE or ROVING SUPERVISOR

- Female, college graduate
- Good communication and analytical skills
- Highly organized in work
- Honest, hard working and has good work ethics
- Preferably has experience in the food business
- Amendable to flexible schedules

Good compensation package
Fast Career Advancement
Promotions are performance based

Please bring resumé with 2x2 colored photo and apply in person at 158 P. Sovilla St., Bet. 6th and 7th Aves., Grace Park, Caloocan City

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WANTED
FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
BOOKKEEPER / ACCOUNTANT
SECRETARY
PRINTER / ARTIST
Please Apply With Resumé at:
#631 Mercedes Avenue,
San Miguel, Pasig City
Tel. No. 747-3519 or 747-3969

CUSTOMER ASSISTANT
(Full-time)

- Female (25 yrs. old & below)
- Fresh grads are welcome
- Cheerful
- Eloquent (English)
- Hard working

Bear Works Store
Look for Irene - 726-4867
0917-8997363

UBIX 29 & digital!

U-BIX CORPORATION
the country's leading office systems provider announces its job openings nationwide...

Cebu • Davao • Cagayan de Oro • Bacolod • Iloilo • Angeles • General Santos • Subic • Batangas • Sta. Rosa • CEPZA • Naga • Dumaguete

BRANCH MANAGERS
For Naga, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, General Santos

Will be responsible for the overall operations of the branch; Sales, marketing, credit and collection, etc.

- Graduate of Marketing, Management or any business course from a reputable school
- With at least five years experience in selling office machines and equipment, two years of which is in managerial capacity
- Knowledge in sales planning activities is required; priority will be given to those with brand management exposure
- Excellent communication and leadership skills
- Male/Female, 28-35 years old
- Preferably resident of Naga, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro or General Santos

SENIOR SALES EXECUTIVES
FOR COPIERS
(For Metro Manila, Calabarzon, Angeles, Cebu, Iloilo, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, General Santos)

Will be responsible for promoting and selling Digital copiers and printers

- Graduate of any business course from a reputable school
- Preferably with at least two years experience in selling office machines and equipment; a good working knowledge in computer operation, applications and networking are major advantages
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Assertive and self-motivated
- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old

JUNIOR SALES EXECUTIVES
FOR COPIERS
(For Metro Manila, Calabarzon, Angeles, Cebu, Iloilo, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, General Santos)

- Graduate of any four year course from a reputable school; Fresh graduates are welcome to apply
- Determined to pursue a career in sales
- Male/Female not more than 25 years old

SALES EXECUTIVES
FOR OFFICE FURNITURE SYSTEMS

- Graduate of Architecture, Interior Design or any business course from a reputable school
- Determined to pursue a career in sales, preferably with experience in selling office furniture systems
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Assertive and self-motivated
- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old

DEALER COORDINATOR
FOR EPSON PRINTERS
(For Metro Manila, Calabarzon, Angeles, Cebu, Iloilo, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, General Santos)

- Graduate of any business course from a reputable school
- Preferably with at least two years experience coordinating with dealers
- Hardworking and self-motivated
- Willing to travel and work long hours
- Male/Female, not more than 35 years old

Competitive compensation, high commission and a rewarding professional career await successful candidates

Qualified applicants are requested to send or e-mail their resume with photo to:
Ms. Armela Cruz
Recruitment & Training Group
U-BIX CORPORATION
1331 Angono St., Makati City
E-mail Address: hrd@ubix.com.ph
Previous applicants need not apply.

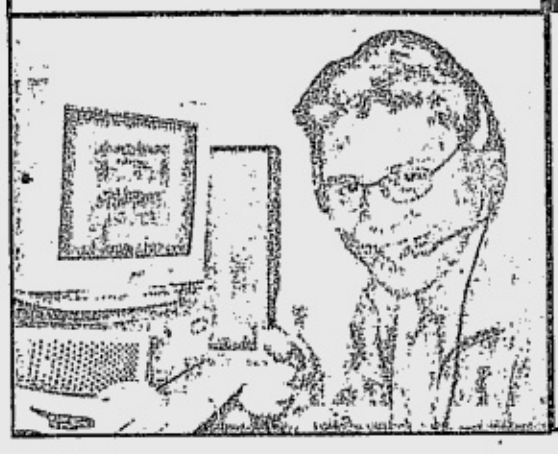
Konica EPSON RISO okumura

Get to Know Our Guys

See first hand why our callers keep giving us a 98% customer satisfaction rating.

This is Paolo. He's a singer and quite a teddybear. He's also part of our Recruiting Team, the indefatigable group that handles the hundreds of applicants we get each week.

This is Rey. He plays a mean guitar and is found serenading employees on Valentines Day just for the fun of it. He's one of our Technical Support Trainers, ensuring that all our reps are armed with the knowledge to help each caller.



This is Francis. He's crazy about cars, and has a distinct brand of laughter you'd recognize from afar. He's part of our Quality Group, a team that tirelessly listens to calls our reps take, to give us pointers on how we can continue to improve, so that we can keep giving the kind of award-winning service that the world recognizes.

JOB VACANCIES

- SALES REPRESENTATIVES
- TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES
- NETWORK ENGINEER
- DATA NETWORK SPECIALIST
- APPLICATION DEVELOPERS
- TEAM LEADERS
- TRAINING OFFICERS
- INFORMATION SECURITY MANAGER / OFFICER
- PAYROLL STAFF
- RECRUITING MANAGER
- RECRUITING OFFICERS
- RECRUITING SPECIALISTS
- TELECOM SPECIALIST
- HR COMPENSATION & BENEFITS MANAGER

SEND YOUR RESUME, CALL US, OR VISIT US
20F CITIBANK SQUARE, EASTWOOD CITY CYBERPARK, LIBIS QC
hotline 9165680
fax 9162200
recruiting@etelecare.com
OR DROP OFF YOUR RESUME AT
14F PBCOM TOWER, VA RUFINO COR AYALA AVE, MAKATI CITY

telecare international

You're Invited!

OPEN HOUSE
We'll see you on October4, 2003, Saturday, 9:00 am-7:00 pm, 12/F PBCOM Tower
VA Rufino cor Ayala Avenue Makati City

POEA HALL OF FAME AWARDEE
WITH AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

IAG&P

POEA License No. 448 - LB - 121201 – R
VALID UNTIL JANUARY 11, 2004

Atlantic, Gulf & Company of Manila, Inc., *in cooperation with its prestigous client overseas announces the following job opportunities in Middle East & UAE to qualified candidates:*

Planning & Scheduling Engineer	well versed in Primavera software
Safety Engineer	with ARAMCO experience
QA/QC Welding Inspector	with NDT Level II (UT, RT, PT, VT) & AWS certification
Draftsman	knowledge in AutoCad, Microstation & Intergraph Plant Design System (PDS) software
Aluminum Welder	with welders qualification test (WQT) certification
Machinery/ Rotating/ HVAC	Engineer, Supervisor & QA/QC Inspector
Electrical & Instrument	Engineer, Supervisor & QA/QC Inspector
Piping	Engineer, Supervisor & QA/QC Inspector
Civil/ Structural/ Building	Engineer, Supervisor & QA/QC Inspector
Painting/ Insulation/ Refractory	Engineer, Supervisor & QA/QC Inspector
Cost Control	Engineer & Supervisor
Mechanical Equipment Erection	Supervisor & QA/QC Inspector

Requirements:
1. Minimum of five (5) years experience in Power Plant, Industrial, Refinery & Petrochemical Plant construction

For qualified applicants, please submit/ mail your resume' with recent 2x2 picture at the following addresses:

Office Address: AG&P – Overseas Manpower Division, Pioneer Highlands, Tower 2, Upper Ground Unit 3 Commercial Center, Pioneer Corner Madison Sts. Mandaluyong City 1554 Philippines
E-Mail Address: omd_central@agp.com.ph

Previous applicant need not apply.
For Manpower Pooling Only
No Placement Fee, No Medical Fee
MAG-INGAT SA ILLEGAL RECRUITER !!!

We are in need of Account Executives

POSITION SUMMARY:

- Responsible for sales leads and generation.
- Develops accounts relationships through initial presentation, liaisons, and continuing accounts management.
- Travel as necessary to cover all locations for named accounts.
- Management of expenses within budget.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Strong presentation skills.
- Successful sales track record with verifiable earnings.
- Familiarity with agricultural industry and/or work experience with Banana and other types of agricultural plantations is a plus.
- Familiarity with plastic packaging industry is a plus.
- Entrepreneurial spirit is highly appreciated.
- References required

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Part of the strategic planning team and implementor of plans to generate revenue and revenue growth.
- Proactively work with peers and partners in attaining objectives.
- Identify prospects and opportunities and coordinate sales resources as needed to pursue such.
- Identify and build strategic partner relationships.
- Position the company as the supplier of choice at targeted accounts.

Exciting opportunities abound for the challenged and able.

Send your resumé to:
Suite 2309 Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City, 1600
or email: bonacorp@info.com.ph

THE CENTURY PARK HOTEL

is inviting qualified applicants for the position of

TEPPANYAKI COOK

FOR THE UNKAI JAPANESE RESTAURANT

- Male or Female
- Not more than 35 years old
- Skilled in Teppan
- At least four (4) years experience in the same field
- Innovative and creative
- Personable and with good showmanship

QUALIFIED CANDIDATES ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT THEIR RESUMÉS WITH A RECENT 2 X 2 COLORED PHOTO AND RELEVANT CERTIFICATES AT:

599 Pablo Ocampo Sr. Street, Malate, Manila
or
P. O. Box 117, CPO, Manila

AIG PHILAM INSURANCE WESLEY

The
Wesleyan Freeman Asian Scholarship Program

providing full funding to earn a Bachelor's degree at Wesleyan University in Connecticut, USA is now accepting applicants for the academic year 2004/2005. Twenty-two exceptional students from Asia, including two from the Philippines will be selected. Application deadline is January 1, 2004. SAT and TOEFL or IELTS are required.

Read details on the Wesleyan University weebsite:
http://www.wesleyan.edu/admission/freeman.ctt
or contact the
Philippine American Educational Foundation (PAEF)
at 892-3743 or 892-3744

LOGICO INC.

is looking for honest, hardworking and highly skilled individuals to assume leadership roles after training abroad as:

JAVA DEVELOPERS

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience in a technical field
- 7+ years experience working in the IT field with knowledge in Object Oriented Analysis and Design preferred
- 7+ years experience as a web developer with strong knowledge of Java, Javascript, Servlets, JSP, HTML, and SQL.
- A solid understanding of UML and knowledge of J2EE application servers such as IBM Websphere is preferred but not required
- Managing multiple tasks, working in a team environment, understanding and being responsive to project and client needs and working under tight deadlines are necessary
- Excellent oral and written communication skills

Send your resumés with a 2x2 picture to
MCPO Box 3175, Makati City 1271
or e-mail them to humanresources@logicoinc.com

GRAPHIC ARTIST

(MAC/IBM Literate)

We are in need of 1 graphic artist who can meet the following qualifications:

- Male/Female
- A resident of Quezon City
- Knowledge of Pagemaker, Photoshop and Corel Draw
- Willing to work under pressure/overtime

Interested applicant may apply personally or may send their comprehensive resumé with NBI clearance at *Medialine* c/o Human Resource Department, Room 911, Landsdale Tower, Timog cor. Mo. Ignacia St., Quezon City. Tel. Nos. **371-1367/371-1378** and **371-1861**.

Let our daily and monthly performance incentives on top of a very competitive package drive you to be the BEST!

WE URGENTLY NEED 30

CORPORATE SALES EXECUTIVES

If you are:

- ✔ Between 21 – 29 years old, college graduate
- ✔ Self directed, highly assertive, enterprising, persuasive and goal driven
- ✔ Highly motivated and results oriented
- ✔ Creative and innovative in marketing loan products
- ✔ With effective interpersonal communication skills
- ✔ With track record in sales and marketing (preferred but not required)
- ✔ With active base of networks or affiliations (preferred but not required)

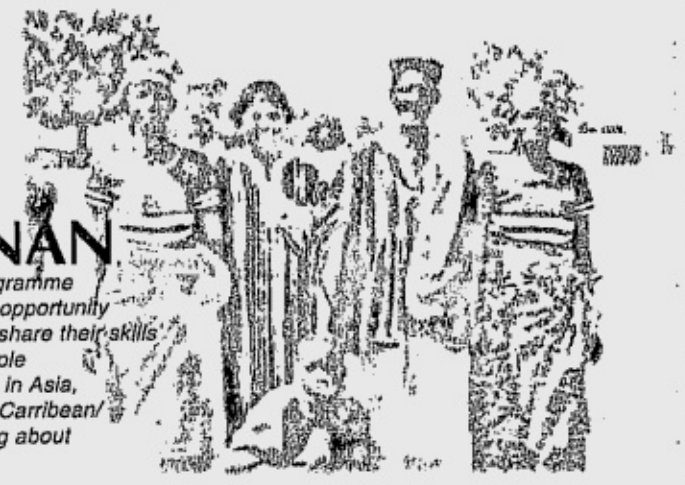
The position is open to fresh college graduates, entrepreneurs, consumer product sales agents, insurance agents, pharma representatives and account executives.

Send your comprehensive resumé with 2x2 colored picture to:

Box MK – 131
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Classified Ads Division
Ground Floor Atrium of Makati Building
Makati Avenue, Makati City
Deadline for submission is **Wednesday, 1 October 2003**.
INTERVIEW WILL BE SCHEDULED IMMEDIATELY.

VSO

BAHAGINAN



the Southern Volunteer Programme Philippines, offers a unique opportunity for Filipino professionals to share their skills with the disadvantaged people of the developing countries in Asia, Africa, the Balkans and the Carribean/ Pacific region, while learning about other cultures.

SHARE YOUR SKILLS WHERE THEY REALLY MATTER...

Be a VSO Volunteer Today!

If you are qualified and trained to practice any of these professions:

- ☐ **HEALTH**
  - ➢ doctors, pediatricians, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, HIV/AIDS professionals, health managers and administrators, maternal and child health professionals, medical laboratory officers, primary health/community-based health educators, community nurses, learning difficulties nurses
- ☐ **COMMUNITY & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**
  - ➢ community/social development workers, community facilitators/organizers, registered social workers
- ☐ **TECHNICAL & NATURAL RESOURCES**
  - ➢ agriculturists, agricultural business managers, agriculture extension officers, agriculture teachers, agro-foresters, community foresters, horticulturists, natural resources managers, fisheries specialists, livestock / vets
  - ➢ media and communication specialists
- ☐ **BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT**
  - ➢ NGO programme managers, livelihood officers and micro-credit/enterprise development advisers, small business / marketing development advisers, fundraisers/communication advisers, accountants
- ☐ **EDUCATION**
  - ➢ curriculum development specialists, education managers, English teacher trainers, teachers for Math and Science (secondary level)

And you are:

- ☐ from 25 to 68 years of age;
- ☐ college graduate, with at least three years relevant work experience;
- ☐ in good health/ physically fit;
- ☐ able to speak and write well in English;
- ☐ able to spend up to two years working in a developing country;
- ☐ willing to live modestly in volunteer allowance; and
- ☐ willing to be assigned where you are most needed..

DO YOU THINK YOU COULD DO IT?

Send in your detailed resumé and a letter of intent through email at Philippines.registry@vsoint.org, or via post mail to:

The Programme Manager
VSO Bahaginan
Unit 505, Pacific Corporate Center
131 West Avenue, Quezon City

As a VSO volunteer, you will have extraordinary opportunities:

- ❖ living and working as part of a different community for two years;
- ❖ gaining fresh insights and understanding;
- ❖ enhanced career prospects upon your return; and
- ❖ enough memories to last you a lifetime.

We provide trainings to help you prepare as a volunteer and you will receive modest financial support during your time overseas and a small end-of-service grant.

APPLY NOW! Recruitment is on a continuous basis, with volunteer departures scheduled three times a year - February/March, May/June and September/October. Visit our website at www.vso.org.uk (click "Other VSO Sites" and go to "Southern Volunteers") for a more comprehensive information about VSO and Bahaginan.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY!

MARKETING ASSOCIATES & DISTRIBUTORS

If you are a college graduate, hardworking, persevering, good communication skills, pleasant personality, excellent public relations and committed to work full time.

Qualified applicants will be trained at company expenses. Benefits include commission (P30T to P50T/month), car plan, opportunity to travel abroad, other privileges and benefits.

Applicants are requested to bring their resumé with 2x2 passport size picture and be ready for interviews every Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday.

ROYAL ACCENT
Suites 2304-2305 Antel Global Bldg.,
Doña Julia Vargas St.,
Cor. Meralco Ave., Ortigas Center,
Pasig, Metro Manila

A prestigious Sports and Leisure Club is looking for a competent

Assistant General Manager

For Administration

- Graduate of Bachelor of Science major in Business Management / Marketing / Accountancy or any related course; MA degree / units an advantage; 35-40 years old; at least 5 years managerial experience in a well established hotel, restaurant, or sports club industry.
- Has hands on experience in areas of financial analysis, HRD and Administration, Purchasing, Engineering, Security, and Sales and Marketing.
- Must have excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate effectively coupled with management and leadership skills.

Send your resumé, 2x2 picture together with your application letter not later than October 15, 2003 at:

3rd Floor Dacon Bldg.
2281 Pasong Tamo Extension
Makati City
ATTN: ATTY. ROEL PACIO

A PIONEER AND LEADER IN THE CLEANING INDUSTRY INVITES CANDIDATES FOR

EXECUTIVE HOUSEKEEPER

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ➢ MALE
- ➢ 35-50 YEARS OLD
- ➢ GRADUATE OF ANY 4-5 YEARS COURSE
- ➢ MINIMUM OF 5 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN HOTEL
- ➢ HOUSEKEEPING AND/OR RELATED FIELDS
- ➢ STRONG LEADERSHIP AND INTERPERSONAL SKILLS
- ➢ EXCELLENT VERBAL/WRITTEN COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- ➢ WILLING TO WORK LONG HOURS

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE CAN EXPECT A VERY ATTRACTIVE COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS PACKAGE

Please mail comprehensive resumé with 2x2
KA-014-02-CS
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Classified Ads Division
G/F Trinity Bldg., #636 T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila
E-mail: prod_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph
Subject: CS

We would like to invite applicants for

SALES ENGINEERS

male, not more than 30 years
Engineering graduate
chinese speaking an advantage
familiar with plastic manufacturing an adv.
with driver's license

Interested applicants may submit, fax, or e-mail resumé and transcript of records to:

ESTA TRADING CORP.
PS Bank Ctr., 777 Paseo de Roxas, Makati
Email: etc1968@info.com.ph Fax: 817-9833

INTERNET MARKETING EXECUTIVE (IMMEDIATE HIRING)
PLEASE VISIT: WWW.INFOPHIL.COM
SEND RESUMÉ TO HR@INFOPHIL.COM

JOB OPPORTUNITY IN QUEZON CITY

BASIC SALARY GUARANTEED

(PLUS: Php 30,000 - 60,000 Monthly Income from various commission and incentives)

The Company is in need of:

- ➢ Hardworking, Aggressive, and Highly Determined Men and Women
- ➢ Good Mathematical skills is a Great Plus
- ➢ At least 20-30 years old
- ➢ With pleasing personality and Highly Conversant in English and Tagalog
- ➢ Willing to Undergo extensive training
- ➢ Goal Oriented and Organized
- ➢ No experience is required

**** An attractive compensation & travel incentives await qualified applicants***

Interested applicants may apply personally in business attire with resumé and latest 2x2 colored picture on September 29, 2003 (Monday) from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at:

Suite 311 West City Plaza Building
#66 West Avenue, Quezon City
(right in front of Goodah Restaurant)

LOURDES SCHOOL OF MANDALUYONG
Shaw Blvd , Greenhills, Mandaluyong City 1552
Tel. Nos. 631-6307; 631-6356; 632-9547; Telefax 631-6310
Website: www.geocities.com/lsmandaluyong.com
(PAASCU ACCREDITED)

WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!!!

- ☛ **GS SCIENCE TEACHER**
- ☛ **GS GUIDANCE COUNSELOR**

(Graduate of Psychology, preferably male with experience)

Applicants must be Catholic, not more than 35 years old, with above average scholastic records and must have passed the L.E.T. (for teacher applicants). ATTRACTIVE SALARY AND BENEFITS AWAITS SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS.

Apply personally and bring your transcript of records for interview on September 30, 2003, 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM.

(ALL CLASSROOMS ARE FULLY AIR-CONDITIONED)

A fast growing flavor and fragrance company is in need of the following

FRAGRANCE ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- o Must have 3-5 years experience in selling fragrances gained from reputable fragrance companies
- o Must be a graduate of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering or other related courses from reputable schools
- o Must be 30-35 years old, single or married

R&D SPECIALIST FOR FLAVORS

- o Must have knowledge on flavor creation, matching or modification and application
- o Graduate of Food Technology or Chemistry with 2-3 years experience gained from reputable flavor companies
- o 25-28 years old, single or married

Successful applicants can look forward to above industry standard compensation package, company car and travel opportunities. Send your resumé with recent photo to:

HR Manager
Trinity Bldg., Annex A
No. 26 East Capitol Dr Pasig City

Bank of Commerce

is searching for
candidates to occupy Middle Management positions (up to Senior Manager level) for its existing vacancies in Head Office and Branches nationwide (Makati City, San Juan, Quezon City, Caloocan City, Manila area, Sucat, Las Piñas City, Laguna, Batangas, Legazpi City, Zambales, Pangasinan, La Union, Aklan, Bacolod, Davao), and soon to be opened branches in Northern Luzon (Baguio City, Tuguegarao):

Account/Marketing Officers* for Treasury & Private Banking

Responsible for developing new accounts, handling of continuous marketing of Treasury & Private Banking services to achieve respective revenue / volume objectives and grow client contact base.

- with at least 2 years experience as Account Officer
- must be a Certified Treasury Professional (for Treasury Marketing)
- with excellent marketing skills and a ready network that may be tapped as client base
- articulate, assertive, with good oral and written communication skills
- below 40 years of age

Department Head for Trust Operations

Responsible for the planning, organizing, directing, coordinating and controlling of Trust Operations activities. Responsible for ensuring timely, reliable, accurate processing, recording and reporting (internal & external) Trust transactions.

- with experience in Trust Operations
- background on control requirements of BSP, external auditing firms, and bank internal audit standards
- must be a Philippine Trust Institute graduate
- must be familiar with accounting principles, possess a keen eye for details & have good people handling skills

Bank Lawyer for Legal Services Management Group

Responsible for the legal documentation and litigation requirements of the Bank. This includes processing and review of loan documents, preparation of legal documents for internal & external use, conduct of routinary foreclosures and appearance for and in behalf of the Bank in all courts of justice for cases filed by and against the Bank.

- with at least 1 year related work experience
- must have passed the Bar examination
- must be articulate, assertive and possess good oral and written communication skills

Business Managers (Branch Managers)* for Branches

Responsible for the management of the Branch's profitability, sales and service, budgets, personnel and work flow requirements aimed at developing quality and lasting business activities which meet goals and institutional profit objectives.

- with at least 1 year actual work experience in marketing and with extensive exposure in commercial bank branch operations
- must possess excellent managerial and leadership skills and exhibit a high level of competence and integrity
- must have a ready network that may be tapped as client base
- articulate, dynamic, aggressive and results-oriented
- below 45 years old; ability to speak Chinese is an advantage

Associate Business Managers for Marketing (Branches Marketing Officers)* for Branches

Responsible for developing and adapting the Branch's marketing strategies to broaden its sales potential, maximize profitability, service efficiency, and operations excellence in coordination with the Branch Manager.

- with experience in selling and must have handled some phases of branch operations in a supervisory capacity
- must have a ready network that may be tapped as client base
- articulate, dynamic, aggressive and results-oriented
- below 35 years old; ability to speak Chinese is an advantage

Interested parties may send their **letter of application together with a comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture and transcript of records to:**
HRMDG – Recruitment & Placement Section
14/F, Philippine First Building
6764 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

For more information about us, you may visit our website:
www.bankcom.com.ph

We will respond only to those who are qualified

Be Part of the Most Exciting Growth Opportunity in Asia.

The Sands, a mega gaming/entertainment complex, and the first of many properties in Asia to be opened by our world-class organization is looking for candidates for the following positions:

Director / Human Resources Manager
Minimum 5 years experience in the leading position of a Human Resources Department in a large and progressive company
Proven ability to create effective programs focused on employee development, satisfaction and retention
Opening experience and experience with multiple properties a definite plus
Cantonese or Mandarin speaking preferred

Senior Gaming Manager
Previous or current Casino Manager, or V.P./Director of Gaming Operations
Minimum 10 years casino experience in the Asian gaming market
Cantonese or Mandarin speaking preferred

Casino Shift Manager
Previous or current Casino Shift Manager
Minimum 10 years casino experience in the Asian gaming market
Cantonese or Mandarin speaking preferred

Pit Manager
Previous or current Casino Pit Manager
Minimum 8 years casino experience in the Asian gaming market
High Volume baccarat experience required
Cantonese or Mandarin speaking preferred

Casino Supervisor
Minimum 3 years casino experience in the Asian gaming market
High Volume baccarat experience required
Cantonese or Mandarin speaking preferred

Security Manager
Minimum 5 years security management experience in the gaming industry required
Cantonese or Mandarin speaking preferred

Security Shift Manager
Minimum 3 years security management experience in the gaming industry required
Cantonese or Mandarin speaking preferred

Surveillance Shift Manager
Minimum 5 years casino surveillance management experience
Microsoft Office and basic statistic skills preferred

Surveillance Supervisor
Minimum 2 years casino surveillance experience required
Previous supervisory experience preferred

Surveillance Operator
Minimum 1 year casino surveillance experience

Cage Shift Manager
Minimum 5 years casino cage experience in medium to large environment
Previous casino cage management experience required
Cantonese or Mandarin speaking preferred

Cage Supervisor
Minimum 3 years casino cage experience in medium to large environment
Previous casino cage management experience
Cantonese or Mandarin speaking preferred

Soft/Hardcount Manager
Minimum 5 years experience in cage operations inclusive of soft/hardcount
Cantonese or Mandarin speaking preferred

International Marketing Manager
Minimum 5 years Asian Marketing experience
Previous casino management experience required
Cantonese or Mandarin speaking required
Additional Chinese dialects / Asian languages a plus

International Marketing Shift Manager
Minimum 3 years Asian Marketing experience
Previous casino management experience preferred
Cantonese or Mandarin speaking required
Additional Chinese dialects / Asian languages a plus

VIP Hosts
Minimum 1 year Asian Marketing experience
Cantonese or Mandarin speaking required
Additional Chinese dialects / Asian languages a plus

The workload for all posts will be substantial and varied while remuneration will be competitive with excellent conditions, benefits and opportunities for advancement.

Please apply in confidence with your detailed resume, recent photo and expected salary to the Human Resources Department at jobs@venetian.com.mo before October 6.

ATTENTION: RESIDENTS OF CAGAYAN & ISABELA

OTHER AREAS: OLONGAPO, BATAAN, ILOCOS & BAGUIO

Jollibee

*In 2002, we were ranked among **ASIA'S BEST EMPLOYERS**, the only Philippine company in the list, and the **#1 EMPLOYER IN THE PHILIPPINES**, as cited by the Far Eastern Economic Review, The Asian Wall Street Journal, and Hewitt Associates. Ranked **3rd among ASIA'S MOST ADMIRED COMPANIES** in 2000, we were also cited as **No. 1 in "OVERALL LEADERSHIP"** among the top 10 Philippine companies doing business in Asia.*

*Recognized by the World Economic Forum as the **"GLOBAL GROWTH COMPANY"**, we invite you to join the ranks of highly successful individuals of the No. 1 food chain. We need high caliber individuals to play very critical role in this growth as:*

STORE MANAGERS

Responsible for the over-all management of the store to achieve targeted goals and maintain efficiency and effectiveness of store operations. Male or female; not over 35 years old; Bachelor's degree holder, with at least 3 years managerial and/or 5 years supervisory experience in food service, manufacturing, retail business, hospitals, or other service-oriented establishments and willing to undergo hands-on-training.

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

College graduates with at least 1-3 years supervisory experience in food service or service-oriented establishments. We also welcome fresh graduates with above-average scholastic records.

STORE MARKETING OFFICERS

The SMART Officer is responsible for planning and implementation of store marketing projects and activities that will: a) increase store sales and b) make service to our customers more personalized. For the position, we need a college graduate, preferably in Mass Communication, Marketing, Management, or any related discipline. He/She should be creative and outgoing, and should possess good human relations and oral and written communication skills.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS (AA – Store Based)

The Administrative Assistant is responsible for the proper handling of the store's funds which include but not limited to the following: Master and Drawer Change Fund, Petty Cash Fund, Cash Sales, Check Disbursement, Computation of manhours and others. For the position, we need graduates of business courses preferably Accounting or Management; not over 25 years old; with at least 6 months work experience in the same field.

Applicants must be willing to work on shifting schedules. Successful candidates will undergo a comprehensive training program designed to develop technical and managerial competencies. Hired applicants can look forward to an above industry compensation package, a rewarding career and growth opportunities.

Qualified candidates may send their updated resume, photocopy of Official Transcript of Records and recent ID photo to:

JOLLIBEE FOODS CORPORATION
Human Resources Division – North Luzon
9th flr. - Jollibee Plaza
#10 Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City

IMPORTANT: APPLICANTS FOR CAGAYAN ONLY, PLEASE APPLY PERSONALLY ON OCTOBER 7-9, 2003 FROM 8AM-5PM AT JOLLIBEE TUGUEGARAO TANZA.

Senior Programmers

A company servicing international offices immediately requires Senior Programmers. He/She will work with the global team in supporting the firm's applications systems as well as developing and maintaining windows and browser based applications.

Job Responsibilities
- Software Development
- Liaise with users on requirements and develop documentation
- Support and Maintenance of Existing applications

Qualifications
- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science or related degree
- Not more than 30 years old
- Work experience on the following development tools is required: VB.NET, ASP.NET, HTML, JavaScript and VBScript
- Object Oriented Programming
- SQL Server 7/2000
- Crystal Reports 8/9
- Report Application Server
- Familiar with UML (Unified Modeling Language)
- Experience with NUnit Package
- Enjoy solving problems and working independently as well as in a team
- Ability to work in a "virtual team"
- Good communication skills in both oral and written
- Ability to work to deadlines and work under pressure
- Willing to travel on short notices
- Willing to work on shifting schedules

Qualified applicants may submit their resumé, 2x2 picture and other credentials to (please indicate current salary):

B&M Support Centre, Inc.
12th Floor Net One Center
26th Street Corner 3rd Avenue, Crescent Park West
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila
mailto: bmsc.hr@bakernet.com
(Previous applicants need not apply)

Get your career off the ground.

JOBMarket
www.jobmarketonline.com

hbc *home of beauty exclusives*

A fast growing retailer of beauty and personal care products with over 80 branches invites the best candidates to fill-in the position of:

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR

- . Reports directly to the Finance Manager
- He/She is preferably 23 to 28 years old
- A graduate of Accounting, Banking & Finance; CPA is an advantage
- He/She must have at least 4 years experience in accounting, 2 years of which is a supervisory capacity
- Competency Requirements: Proficient in oral and written communication skills, has strong business sense, adaptable, flexible, innovative. Well adept in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Power Point
- Must be a team player, honest hardworking, customer oriented and well organized

CUSTOMER CARE STORE OFFICER

- Reports directly to the Customer Care District Manager and after undergoing extensive training, successful appointees will handle all aspects in branch operations such as but not limited to marketing, merchandising, inventory management, customer service and relations and personnel handling and motivation
- He/She will likewise be involved in the implementation of company policies, systems and procedures to ensure the profitability of the branch
- Candidates must be between 23-27 years old; self-driven, results-oriented, with excellent communication skills, a team player, cooperative, committed to the mission of the company
- He/She must be a graduate of Management, Marketing or other related business course with 2 to 3 years related work experience gained from a reputable retail establishment
- He/She must be willing to be assigned to any of the following HBC branches

1. Alaminos, Pangasinan
2. Bacoor, Cavite
3. Baguio City
4. Batangas City
5. Binangonan, Rizal
6. Calamba, Laguna
7. Carunoho, Pasig
8. Cebu City
9. Davao City
10. Epza, Cavite
11. General Trias, Cavite
12. San Fernando, La Union
13. Maharlika, Taguig, M.M.
14. Malinta, Valenzuela City
15. Muñoz, Quezon City
16. Solano, Nueva Vizcaya
17. Urdaneta, Pangasinan
18. V.G. Cruz, Manila
19. San Pedro, Laguna

ACCOUNTING STAFF

- Reports directly to the Finance Manager
- He/She must not be more than 26 years old and a graduate of Business Management, Marketing, Economics or any related course
- Competency Requirements: Proficient in oral and written communication skills, has strong business sense, adaptable, flexible, innovative. Well adept in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Power Point
- Must be a team player, honest, hardworking, customer oriented and well organized

CUSTOMER CARE SPECIALIST

- Reports directly to the Customer Care Store Officer, the successful candidate must not be more than 25 years old. College graduate on any 4-year course, computer literate
- She must have at least 1-year solid and well-rounded experience on cash register in any retail store
- She must be honest and dependable
- Must be customer oriented and with pleasing personality. She should have good oral and written communication skills
- Willing to be assigned to the following HBC branches:

1. Baguio City
2. Bacolod City
3. Cebu City
4. Davao City
5. Marcos, Alvarez, Las Piñas City

CUSTOMER CARE VACIADOR STAFF
(NAGHAHASA)

- Reports directly to the Customer Care Store Officer, the successful candidates must not be more than 30 years old
- He must have a knowledge in vaciador (Paghahasa ng nipper, pusher, and kitchen utensils)
- He must be hardworking, willing to learn, honest and dependable
- Willing to be assigned to the following HBC branches:

1. Baguio City
2. Batangas City
3. Bacolod City
4. Davao City
5. Hermosa, Manila

Interested parties can bring, send thru mail or e-mail their resumé to:

HBC, INC.
Human Resources Management Department
Ground Floor, HBC Corporate Centre
548 Mindanao Avenue cor. Quirino Highway,
Novaliches, Quezon City
E-mail: lrpascual@hbc.com.ph
We will respond to qualified applicants only.

Artemis BC International Inc.

6/F Westgate Tower, 1709 Investment Drv., Madrigal Business Park
Alabang Muntinlupa City Tel. 772-4027 Telefax 807-4138

We are a management consultancy backed up by high level of professional expertise. We provide outsourcing services to different industries. Our client is a leading distributor of standard computer components, surplus trading and e - commerce, with 10 branches all over Metro Manila

Applicants from Metro Manila are all invited to fill in the ff positions:

ACCOUNTING CLERK
Female; 21 – 28 yrs. old. W/ at least 1 year experience in records management and/or general accounting. Graduate of Bachelor's of Science in Accountancy/Bachelor of Commerce – Major in Accounting. Well–organized and cost-efficient. W/ good scholastic records and above average mathematical skills. Must be computer literate and must have experience in encoding/clerical functions.

CASHIERS
Female at least 5'3 in height. Single. W/ pleasing personality and physically fit. College graduate. Must have at least (3) months to (1) yr experience in cashiering. Highly credible, can work with minimum supervision; can work under pressure and with job focus. Above average communication, mathematical and customer relation skills.

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES
Male at least 5'5" in height and or / Female at least 5'3" in height. Bet. 22 to 28 years old. Graduate of ECE, Computer Science and Computer Engineering and/or any 4 – year computer related courses. Knowledgeable in basic computer hardware and software is a must. Familiarity in various operating systems an advantage. Must have 3 months to 1 yr hands – on experience in the same capacity. Can work with less supervision, well – organized and cost efficient. Excellent oral and written communication, customer relation, and leadership skills. Willing to undergo comprehensive training and work on shifts. With pleasing personality and mature disposition. Fresh graduates with good scholastic records are welcome to apply. Preferably non – smoker.

TECHNICIANS
Male at least 5'5" in height and or / Female at least 5'3" in height. Bet. 22 to 28 yrs old. Graduate of ECE, Computer Science and Computer Engineering and/or any 4 – year computer related courses. Knowledgeable in basic computer hardware and software, troubleshooting, repair and assembly is a must. Familiarity in various operating systems an advantage. Must have at least 1 – 2 yrs hands – on experience in the same capacity. Can work with less supervision, well – organized and cost efficient. Customer service focused. Must be computer literate. With pleasing personality. Preferably non – smoker.

INVENTORY CONTROL PERSONNEL
Male at least 5'5" in height and/or Female at least 5'3" in height. Between 22 to 28 yrs old. Graduate of ECE, Comp. Science, Comp. Engineering and/ or any 4 yrs computer-related courses. Must have (3) months to (1) yr working experience in warehouse inventory control. Willing to undergo comprehensive training and work on shifts. Must be familiar with computer parts/peripherals. Productive and can work with minimum supervision. Preferably non – smoker.

SALES PERSONNEL
Male/Female 23-33 yrs old, with pleasing personality and strong leadership qualities. High interpersonal, negotiation and persuasive skills. Proficient in oral and written communication skills. Knowledgeable about computer parts, components and other computer peripherals. Graduate of any 4 yrs computer related courses, with good scholastic records. Minimum 1 yr experience in computer sales. Preferably non-smoker.

PRODUCT SPECIALISTS
Female; 20 – 26 year's old; at least 5'5 in height. 4 yrs course college graduate, preferably business courses. W/ extremely pleasing and charming personality; slim and physically fit. Preferably with work related experience in the area of sales but not required. Can speak fluently and concisely with confidence. Have customer service skills. Must be willing to wear mini-skirts. Preferably non-smoker.

INVENTORY SECTION HEAD
Female at least 5'3 in height. Between 22 to 28 years old. Graduate of ECE, Comp. Science and Computer Engineering and/or any 4-yrs computer- related courses. Must have 1 to 2 yrs. Working experience in warehouse inventory control and management. Willing to undergo comprehensive training and work on shifts. Must be familiar with computer parts and peripherals. Can handle supervisory position. W/ good communication and leadership skills. Highly organized, dynamic and assertive individual. Productive and can work wit minimum supervision. Preferably non-smoker.

OTHER VACANCIES:
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS
TELESALES

Please submit your resume with 2x2 photo personally on Sept. 29 to Sept.30, 2003. Interviews will be conducted on same day from 9am to 12noon.

Applications may be sent to:

ARTEMIS BC INT'L INC.
6/F Westgate Tower, Investment Ave.
Madrigal Business Park
Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Or email to : artemisintl@axti.com
All applications must be received no later than October 20, 2003.

We are a market leader in the distribution of consumer products, operating 15 branches nationwide. To meet the requirements of our growing client base, we invite competent, dynamic and career-oriented individuals for the following positions:

VAN SALESMEN

FOR METRO MANILA/ ILOCOS/ SOUTHERN TAGALOG/ SAMAR-LEYTE/ NORTHERN MINDANAO ASSIGNMENTS

- Male graduates of any 4 or 5 year course, 21 to 28 years old
- Seasoned drivers holding valid professional driver's licenses with Restriction Codes 2 and 3
- Related experience gained from a distribution company a definite advantage
- Must have good communication and interpersonal skills
- Well-built and with high energy level
- Trustworthy, hardworking and of good moral character and unquestionable integrity
- Can work long hours

AUDITORS

- Males, 20 to 25 years old
- CPA, graduates of reputable accountancy schools with impressive scholastic records
- With at least 6 months' experience in external and internal audit preferably gained from an auditing firm
- Highly analytical and results-oriented
- With above-average communication and interpersonal skills
- Willing to travel

BRANCH CASHIERS

FOR METRO MANILA/ PANGASINAN BRANCHES

- Females, 20 to 25 years old
- Accounting graduates with good scholastic records
- Honest, hardworking, reliable and of good moral character
- Computer-literate and with good communication skills
- At least 5'2", presentable and with pleasing personality

WAREHOUSEMEN

FOR QUEZON/ BICOL/ TACLOBAN BRANCHES

- Males, 25 to 28 years old
- Graduates of any 4-year Business course with good scholastic records
- Preferably with experience in warehousing procedures and inventory management
- Well-built, trustworthy and of good moral character

HELPERS

FOR ISABELA/ PANGASINAN/ PAMPANGA/ BICOL/ BACOLOD BRANCHES

- Males, 20 to 27 years old
- Vocational course graduates or college level
- Very good in basic mathematical operations
- Well-built, hardworking, trustworthy and with high energy level

Qualified candidates may send their resumés, transcript of records and recent 2"x 2" photos to:

MN-2049
c/o Classified Ad Division
Philippine Daily Inquirer Building, Chino Roces Avenue
corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

MACHINEBANKS' CORPORATION

Machinebank's is a leading importer and distributor of machine tools, cutting tools, MRO chemicals, industrial equipment and supplies. In relation with our on-going expansion program, we are inviting qualified, energetic individuals to fill in the following positions for our Manila head office and Cebu office:

*** SALES EXECUTIVES**
*** SERVICE ENGINEERS**
(Above, preferably with Engineering educational background)
*** SALES COORDINATORS**

For more details regarding our company, please visit our website:
www.machinebanks.com

Interested parties may submit their resumé, transcript of records, and 2x2 picture to:
P.O. Box 1519, Manila
Or
jobs@machinebanks.com

Save the Children
UK

(Philippine Programme)
is in need of a

Programme Officer

Focus on: Child Abuse & Exploitation & Children in conflict with the Law
(Manila based)

Main duties and tasks are in the areas of ***Programme Development & Management, Institutional Learning, Networking & Advocacy and Self Management & Development.***

We are searching for:
- ☑ Graduate of a university degree in Social Sciences
- ☑ Has a commitment to rights-based approach to development
- ☑ Has in-depth knowledge of development issues and of national, political, economic and social situation and knowledge of international and globalisation issues and their impact on the national context and on children
- ☑ Experienced in urban and rural development, gender and children's issues
- ☑ Experience in work across different sectors and connected, integrated and employed a range of different approaches and strategies will be an advantage
- ☑ With a minimum of five years of experience in programme management and/or implementation in development work

Interested individuals may send their resumé to: sculkphilannabelle@mydestiny.net
Closing date is on 24 October 2003

We are a Manufacturing Company of consumer products with distribution nationwide and belonging to the Top 1000 Corporations. We have vacancies for:

BRAND MANAGERS

- Male or Female
- Not more than 35 years old
- BSC Graduate major in Marketing or related course
- Must have experience as Brand Manager
- Must have good scholastic record
- Must be proficient in oral & written communication skills
- Must be honest, trustworthy & diligent

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

- Male or Female
- Not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of business or related course
- With good scholastic record
- Must have good personality
- Must be honest, trustworthy & diligent
- Must be willing to do field work

Please send resumé, transcript of records & passport size photo to:

P.O. BOX NO. 12940, Ortigas Center Post Office, Pasig City

INQ7.net

your home, your newwws

An Internet media company is in need of

ACCOUNT MANAGERS

Qualifications for the position are:
- Male or Female
- 24 to 35 years of age
- College degree
- At least two years work experience
- Proven track record in sales

Should have pleasing personality, is aggressive, can work under pressure, is highly motivated to succeed, and with good command of the English Language.
Experience in dealing with advertising agencies is an advantage.

Interested applicants may submit their resume to jobs_sales@inq7.net or send them to HR Department , 9th Floor Rufino Building, 6784 Ayala Ave. corner VA Rufino St., Makati City.

Hush Puppies ®

Shoemaker's Shop, Inc.
A Licensee of The Hush Puppies® Company
24 Guenilla St., Sto. Niño, Marikina City 1800
Tel. (632) 941-7877

Is in need of a highly competent individual to fill the following vacant positions:

MARKETING OFFICER
- At least 22 years old; Graduate of any four year business course from a reputable institution; With at least one year work experience in retail operations marketing; Dynamic and possesses strong leadership skills

SALES PROMO
- Male or Female; Not more than 22 years old; Height of 5'2" for female, 5'6" for male; At least 2nd year college; Has good oral and written communication skills; Above average physical appearance and with fair complexion

Interested applicants may submit their resumé with picture, transcript of records and previous employment certificate at the above mentioned address from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

CHINESE GENERAL HOSPITAL and MEDICAL CENTER

MANILA PHILIPPINES TELS. 711-41-41 TO 44
OWNED AND OPERATED BY PHILIPPINE-CHINESE CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION, INC
286 BLUMENTRITT ST., STA. CRUZ, MANILA

WE ARE IN NEED OF:

A Certified Public Accountant

- BSC graduates of reputable schools.
- Not more than 32 years old.
- Minimum of 5 years corporate accounting and auditing experience in a supervisory capacity.
- Must have an updated knowledge of institutional tax regulations and procedures.
- Of proven competence, integrity and honesty.

Please bring the ff: Comprehensive resumé, Transcript, PRC ID, Board Rating, NBI/Police clearance, 2x2 colored pix, char. ref with phone nos., and personally submit showing the original copies thereof to the Personnel Office, Ground Flr., Main Building, on or before September 30, 2003.

DEDICATED TO THE SERVICE OF HUMANITY. EVERYBODY IS WELCOME REGARDLESS OF RACE, CREED OR NATIONALITY

SAMIE INTERNATIONAL
RECRUITMENT & GEN. SERVICES
1918 LEON GUINTO ST. MALATE MANILA
P.O.E.A. LICENSE NO. 549-LB-120400R
ACCREDITATION NO. 72775
TEL. # 4050188 / 5280697 / 5363380 FAX 5363383

URGENT JOB ORDER FOR ACADEMIC HOSPITAL IN DAMMAM K.S.A.

FEMALE NURSE – exp. at least 2 yrs. with PRC
HEAD NURSE – exp. at least 3 yrs. with PRC
FEMALE DENTIST – exp. at least 3 yrs.
FEMALE OPTOMETRIST – exp. at least 5 yrs.

JOB ORDER FOR AL MANJAF HOTEL RIYADH

CHIEF COOK – exp. in European and Western food
INTERNATIONAL COOK
COLD FOOD COOK
PASTRY & DESERT MAKER
RESTAURANT MANAGER – have exp. in big restaurant here in the Philippines and abroad
WAITER SUPERVISOR
HOTEL OPERATION INSTRUCTOR – 3 yrs. exp. for teaching in college
FOOD INSTRUCTOR
HOTEL MANAGEMENT INSTRUCTOR
HOTEL SERVICE INSTRUCTOR

JOB ORDER FOR RAYMOND CO. IN DAMMAM

MECHANICAL ENGINEER — exp. in mechanical quality control
CIVIL ENGINEER — exp. at least 5 yrs. in civil quality control
SAFETY MANAGER — 15 yrs. exp. on site construction project & trenchless replacement technologies
ADVERTISING DESIGNER — at least 5 yrs. exp. in design for advertising & have knowledge in CAD and manual.

Requirements : resumé with job description, employment certificate with 2x2 picture. Interested applicants report in the office personally for interview.

FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY
NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED FROM THE APPLICANT

A New York Call Center

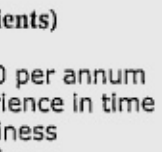
Business Development Officer
- With salary of P200,000 – P250,000 per annum
- Preferably a graduate of UP, Ateneo or La Salle
- At least 1 year experience in the field of sales
- Good oral and written communication skills

Team Leader (for foreign clients)
- With salary of P168,000 – P210,000 per annum
- With at least 2 years working experience in time share and travel telemarketing business
- Must possess strong leadership skills
- Willing to work shifts (night/day or weekend)

Outbound Sales Agents (for foreign clients)
- With salary of P120,000 – P200,000 per annum
- Must have *excellent* command of the English language
- 18 to 27 years old, with outgoing personality
- Willing to work shifts (night/day or weekend)
- Basic computer knowledge
- Fresh graduates are welcome

PLS. APPLY PERSONALLY EVERY MONDAYS, 10 a.m. at
G/F Annex Bldg. 2263 Lapanday Center
Pasong Tamo Ext. Makati City
or e-mail marcia@nytelecon.com or
ruth@nytelecon.com
or mail at P.O. Box 892 Dasmariñas Village,
Makati City

MIGRATE to Australia



SPECIAL SKILLED PERSONS LIST IN DEMAND FOR OCTOBER
(with Priority to those graduates from "TOP" Colleges and Universities)

- Physiotherapist (Physical Therapist)
- Computer Professionals
- Engineers
- Hairdresser
- Radiographer
- Refrigeration & Air-condition Mechanic

We can assist with "Qualification Upgrading" to Australian Standards, "Payment Plans to Suit". Accommodation, Job Placement, Part Money Back Guarantees (conditions apply).

Visit or call us:
SHERMAN LAU MIGRATION SERVICES — J.P.
Australian Migration Registration 86793 MIA Member 479
In Association with ACCEED Business and Migration Consultants
Room 1505 Cityland Mega Plaza, ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Ask for GEMMA or IBETH
Tel. 914-1026 or 687-1016
Bring this AD with you for October "Discount"

"WE ARE NOT A RECRUITMENT AGENCY"

- **1 ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER**
- **1 FINANCE MANAGER**
- **1 ACCOUNTING CLERK**
- **1 SALES REPRESENTATIVES**

For a Carnival Events Company. Bring your resumé, ID pic, reference letter and NBI clearance and come for an interview at Unit 2110 Cityland Pasong Tamo, Chino Roces Ave., Makati (across Don Bosco) between 1 to 5 p.m. on September 29 and 30, 2003. For inquiries, call 8920721 or 8128510. Look for Miren/Oly

We are a leader in our industry and in existence for more than 35 years. We value human resources and are looking for qualified people for the following positions:

Electrical Supervisor
- B.S. ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
- 23 TO 30 YEARS OLD
- AT LEAST THREE (3) YEARS SUPERVISORY EXPERIENCE
- WITH ABOVE-AVERAGE SCHOLASTIC RECORDS

Sales Account Executive
- COMMERCE GRADUATE OR ANY MARKETING-RELATED COURSE
- PLEASING AND AMIABLE PERSONALITY
- TRUSTWORTHY AND WITH INITIATIVE
- 21-30 YEARS OLD

Accounting Clerks
- GOOD SCHOLASTIC RECORDS
- 22-30 YEARS OLD
- PROFICIENT IN MS EXCEL
- WITH WORK EXPERIENCE IN GENERAL ACCOUNTING

Cadet Engineers
- MECHANICAL OR ELECTRICAL ENGINEER
- GOOD SCHOLASTIC RECORDS
- 21-26 YEARS OLD
- PROFICIENT IN MS EXCEL AND MS WORD
- ONE (1) YEAR WORK EXPERIENCE

Interested persons may send resume with picture to:

P.O. Box 456
Greenhills, San Juan
Metro Manila

Residents of Pasig, Antipolo, Cainta or Marikina will find our location most ideal.

have u **got what it takes?** the right skills... the right attitude!

- **Account Managers**
- **Senior Artists**
- **Copywriter**
- **Marketing Assistant**

- with at least 2-year job-related experience
- excellent in written and oral English
- over 25 years old

Send your resumé with ID photo to:
W1203-B Philippine Stock Exchange Center
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Interviews strictly by appointment.
Freelancers must submit CD portfolio & preferred job rates.

Integrated Marketing Communications/ PR Consultancy/Graphics

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

A branch of a New York based multinational conglomerate belonging to the Philippine's Top 1,000 Corporations is in need of dynamic **Personnel/Management Trainees**. This is in line with the company's affiliation with the country's leading financial institution and one of the world's largest fastfood chains.

REQUIREMENTS:

- ☑ Male/Female; 18-35 years old; at least college level
- ☑ Experience w/ fastfood chains is an advantage but not required
- ☑ Communication skills in both English & Pilipino
- ☑ Must be willing to attend orientation and training course

Successful candidates will receive above average industry compensation package, bonuses and fringe benefits and a chance to travel to Asia-Pacific Branches and Australia at company's expense.

Please come in business attire for an interview on September 29, 2003 (Monday) from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM.
SUITE 511 HORIZON EDSA HOTEL
778 Boni Ave., Mandaluyong City

A fast growing company engaged in the distribution of various medical supplies is looking for qualified individuals to fill in the following positions:

SALES / ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
- ✔ College graduate / Medical or Business Related Course
- ✔ Female, single, 23-35 year-old
- ✔ Preferably Nurse that can handle patient as well
- ✔ At least 2 years experience in selling preferably in medical supplies
- ✔ Computer literate
- ✔ With pleasing personality & proficient in oral & written communication
- ✔ Friendly & able to relate well with customers
- ✔ Proactive and willing to learn
- ✔ Responsible and having self-initiative

TECHNICAL/SERVICE ENGINEER
- ✔ ECE graduate, preferably licensed
- ✔ 23-32 year-old
- ✔ Computer literate
- ✔ At least 2 years related work experience
- ✔ Excellent in interpersonal relations and have good work habits
- ✔ Proactive and willing to learn
- ✔ Thorough and detail oriented
- ✔ Responsible and having self-initiative
- ✔ Preferably with Driver's License

Please send resumé to:
The HR Officer
Box No. Q.C. 2003-80 c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F St. Anthony's Building
891 Aurora Boulevard cor. Oxford St.,
Cubao, Quezon City

CONSUMER ADVANTAGE ASIA, INC.
Proud of being Filipino owned

Engaged in the marketing of consumer products, has openings for the following positions:

- **SALES OPERATIONS MANAGER (1)**
  - Male or female, not more than 35 years old and resident of Metro Manila
  - Strong leadership, supervisory and communication skills
  - Solid background in sales planning, GMA key accounts and third party distribution management
  - With good understanding of logistics management
  - Graduate of any Business Degree
  - With at least 5 years Sales Operation experience
  - Computer literate
- **KEY ACCOUNTS SPECIALISTS FOR GMA (2)**
  - Female, not more than 30 years old, preferably single and a resident of Metro Manila or nearby towns
  - With pleasing personality
  - Preferably a Graduate of a Business Degree
  - Very good in oral and written communications
  - Computer literate
- **MARKETING ASSISTANT**
  - Male or Female, not more than 23 years old, preferably single
  - Excellent in oral and written communications
  - College graduate from one of the top universities in Metro Manila
  - Proficient in various computer applications
  - Very Creative, energetic, with positive outlook in life

Applicants are invited to come in person to our office at Unit 2B LPL Towers, 112 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City; or e-mail their resumé to: melody@herbana.com with 2x2 pictures, and Transcript of Records (if available)

Competitive industry salaries and benefits awaits you!

For further inquiries,
call up Ms. Melody M. Caguicla
at Telefax 817-5195.

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR PRESIDENCY

NOTICE OF VACANT POSITION

SUC President I
for:
Northern Mindanao State Institute of Science and Technology
Ampayon, Butuan City

Minimum Qualification for the Position:

1. Filipino Citizen;
2. Holder of an earned doctorate degree;
3. Preferably 40 years old or over;
4. Relevant and proven administrative leadership and experience;
5. Possesses leadership and management skills; and
6. Known for probity and moral integrity.

In addition to the above-mentioned qualifications interested persons must be able to submit the following clearances:

a. Ombudsman;
b. Civil Service Commission;
c. National Bureau of Investigation;
d. Medical Certificate.

Application/Nomination should be accompanied by:

a. Detailed Curriculum Vitaé and documentary evidences relative to the qualification above stated;
b. Proposed Vision, Mission and Thrusts for the College;
c. Result of Neuro-Psychiatric examination in a sealed envelope.

Applicants/Nominees are requested to submit seven (7) sets of their formal applications and certified supporting documents not later than October 31, 2003.

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J.C. Aquino Ave., Butuan City
For more details, please contact Telefax No. (085) 815-0831
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BOX CODE: 400
c/o Classified Ads
Philippine Daily Inquirer
5th Flr. Bldg-B, SM Megamall
Edsa, Mandaluyong City

Computer engineer finds calling in human resources

By Candy G. Villanueva

HR FOCUS

LEO Hector I. Navarra sees himself as a coach to his human resources team. He believes that like basketball, HR work requires team effort. Each individual in the team has his or her own talents and capabilities and Navarra works to bring out the best from each one. This is the principle that ePerformax's human resources manager has been applying in his nine-year career in human resources management.

Navarra, as he would like to be addressed in the office, is the driving force behind ePerformax's HR Operations. Commencing operations just last year, ePerformax Contact Centers Corp. is a multinational, award-winning contact center that services both local and U.S. clients.

Accidental HR

A computer engineering graduate, Navarra's HR skills were discovered by accident. "I took a one-way ticket in HR and never looked back," Navarra recounts. In a formal gathering one night, a friend noticed how Navarra was able to charm guests. His friend believed that Navarra, affable and jovial in nature, would be perfect for human resources work. Navarra trained to be an HR consultant and later became a full-fledged HR practitioner to companies like Opportunity Microfinance Bank, BPC - British Petroleum TSPI Development Corp. and Selecta Wall's, Inc. He also worked for Bayantel, Inc., before ePerformax took him into the fold.

The opportunity to be able to help fellow Filipinos land a job and excel in their career is what Navarra loves most about his profession. "I love helping people find the right jobs and develop into what they really want to be." He believes that it is his job to guide employees through their career and ensure that they get the proper training. "Before we set someone to paddle, we need to equip the person of all knowledge and skills in relation to the job that they'll be handling."

At a glance, ePerformax looks like your typical call center provider. "From the outside, we look just like the rest, we have young energetic people, people working at night, people working on computers, etc. but in reality, we are a contact center with a big difference," Navarra states.

According to Navarra, one important difference is that ePerformax is a member of the Transnational Diversified Group (TDG). TDG, the mother of more than 30 companies, caters to varied services and industries like information technology, ship management, air and travel, transportation and logistics, among others. TDG's thrust is to search, train and retain top performers.

High standards

Navarra works to keep his people because getting into ePerformax is like passing through the eye of the needle. The company sets very high standards in screening and choosing applicants. Usually, only about two out of 20 pass the exams and screening process. After the grueling exams, applicants are subjected to a battery of interviews and certifications.

Secondly, ePerformax sets itself apart by being a career provider. "Once you get on board, you have a performance career path already carved out for you. We give careers here, not just jobs," the HR manager proudly claims. "We provide continuous education and regular coaching," he adds. "I believe that we provide the best training activities and career enhancement programs for contact center aspirants."

PHOTO BY RUDY ESPERAS

NAVARRA

In addition, competitive salaries and benefits are immediately given upon hiring. Employees do not need to wait for six months to enjoy company-initiated benefits.

Heart's desire

Navarra establishes good relationships with the employees by appealing to their hearts. He says ePerformax challenges employees by saying, "We provide the training; you provide the desire."

To establish a good connection with ePerformax's workforce, Navarra tries to be sensitive to the needs of the people. "We try to establish very professional individual relationships because we would like everybody to see that HR is their partner in their career growth. We are so open to each other that they can approach HR anytime they want."

Sometimes, Navarra even goes as far as taking care of his employees outside work. He recounts an incident when an employee, on her way to her first day of work, was hit by a van. The employee left the accident unscathed but Navarra, through the direction from the company president, personally took her to the hospital to make sure she did not sustain internal injuries.

Extra care

Navarra extends service further by trying to indoctrinate HR knowledge to the employees. "We provide regular HR consultations for them to understand how HR Management can be of help to them."

Presently, Navarra and the members of ePerformax's Recruitment Team are working overtime to hire more than a thousand employees within the next few months. In between the hiring and labor relations, Navarra is "planning to have a closer interaction with the different HR units within TDG." He is intent on this happening because more than anything else, he would like to provide excellent service to his own "clients," the employees.

Downsizing

PEOPLE at Work and the Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development (Ateneo CORD) partner to listen to the heartbeats of working people through this People at Work Pulse.

Is your pulse rate a bit too fast due to stress? Is it slowing down due to asphyxiation from traffic fumes? Or it is just beating happily to the rhythm of life? Your thoughts, feelings and beliefs on various workplace issues close to your hearts, when shared, can contribute to transforming our workplaces into more human-friendly places to work in.

PEOPLE AT WORK Pulse

This "pulse" check will be conducted once a month. The results of this poll will be published the following month. To quicken your response rates, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Ateneo CORD will be giving gift packages to two respondents to be drawn from those who replied for the month.

1) How likely is it that your company will downsize?
   a. Is currently/has already downsized
   b. Might downsize in the future
   c. Will likely downsize
   d. Will definitely downsize soon
2) Why do you think organizations downsize?
   a. Poor economy
   b. Poor management
   c. Labor problems
   d. Mergers and acquisitions
   e. Change in business strategy
3) How can organizations help employees who are downsized? (Rank the following)
   a. Career planning
   b. Outplacement services
   c. Separation package
   d. Communicate to employees as early as possible
   e. Provide seminars/workshops to provide new skills
4) What would you be willing to do to help prevent downsizing? (Rank the following)
   a. Take a pay cut
   b. Freeze salary increases/bonuses
   c. Reduce work hours
   d. Decrease benefits
   e. Work longer hours with no overtime pay
5) Please describe your current job level
   a. Rank and file/manual
   b. Professional/technical/sales
   c. Supervisor
   d. Managerial

Name: _____
Nature of Job: _____
Company Name _____
Industry: _____
Tel/Mobile/Email: _____

Mail or fax this form with your answers to:
People at Work Pulse
Ateneo Center for Organization Research & Development
2nd Flr Hoffner Bldg., Social Development Complex
Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.
Fax No. (632) 426-6065;
Email: ateneocord@admu.edu.ph

Or email or text answers to (0920)831-9522. Write: topic 1.(answer), 2. (answer), etc. name, position, company, address, contact numbers or email address.

Winners from last month's survey are: Danny Gaba and Ethel Bondoc. Please get your gift packages from Ateneo CORD.

Rustan's

Urgently needs...

BRAND MANAGER
- Female, at least 25 years old
- Graduate of a 4-year Business related course preferably with excellent academic records
- With at least two (2) years work experience in the retail business in the same capacity
- Must be analytical, results oriented, artistic, creative and with good fashion sense
- Must have excellent communication skills

CONSIGNOR ASSISTANT MANAGER
- At least 30 years old
- Graduate of a four (4) year Business related course
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must have 2-3 years extensive exposure in Consignor Management and operations
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- Must be computer literate

AUDIT ANALYSTS
- Female, between 21 to 27 years old
- BS-Industrial Engr. or Accounting grad.
- Preferably CPA and/or with related job experience in external or internal audit, accounting, methods systems analysis and designs
- With IT/Audit background
- Reliable, hardworking, trustworthy, with good moral character

FINANCIAL SUPERVISOR
- Between 21 to 35 years old
- Accounting graduate, computer literate
- Must be results oriented and highly analytical
- Preferably with related work experience
- Willing to work beyond regular working hours

MARKETING/EXEC. ASSISTANT
- Female, at least 25 years old
- Graduate of Management, Business Administration, Marketing, Economics, or any business related course
- Preferably with at least two (2) years work experience in the retail business with focus in Marketing
- Must be good in Information Research, Project Management, Coordination & Analysis
- Must possess an analytical mind, be able to command respect and deal with all levels in the organization
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- Must be computer literate

Those who meet the qualifications mentioned may send their comprehensive resumé with contact numbers and recent 2x2 photo to:

RUSTAN COMMERCIAL CORPORATION
HROD Division
G/F, El Mercasol Bldg.,
EDSA, Mandaluyong City

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Yes, I'm interested in joining the Inquirer Job Market's JOBZ Employment Expo 2003 in SM Megatrade Hall.

Please call me Please send me more information

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Address: Fax Number:
Contact person:

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JOB Market

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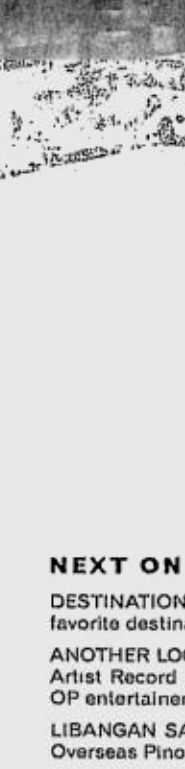

BILLING COORDINATORS

A company servicing international offices urgently needs applicants for the position of Billing Coordinators who will be doing local and regional responsibilities, with the following qualifications:

- **male or female**
- **graduate of BS Accountancy preferred**
- **computer literate and familiar with Microsoft Office applications**
- **with excellent oral and written English communication skills**
- **relevant experience in handling billing in a Law firm or legal department preferred**
- **willing to deal with other nationalities**

Qualified applicants may submit their resumé, 2x2 picture, and other credentials to:

B&M Support Centre, Inc.
12th Floor Net One Center
26th Street Corner 3rd Avenue, Crescent Park West
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila
mailto: bmsc.hr@bakernet.com
(Previous applicants need not apply)

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- Willing to work on holidays and shifts
- Knowledgeable in MS Office application programs

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- Excellent people management and sales skills
- Willing to work on shifting schedule
- High proficiency in client servicing
- Call center experience in the same level a plus
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- Experience in supervising a team of 15-20 individuals

IT Manager
- Technical competencies in areas of programming, systems analysis, network administration, telecommunication and e-commerce
- Ability to design and recommend technical systems and strategies
- Excellent communication skills and interpersonal skills

Training Manager
- At least 2 years experience in training facilitation and development preferably gained from a call center company
- Experience in American accent/ English proficiency training
- Excellent background in basic sales and customer service concepts
- Can work effectively on shifting schedules

Given the urgency of these requirements, we are inviting interested applicants to apply personally with a copy of their comprehensive resumes at:
31/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center,
Pasig City
Tuesday - Saturday
7am - 3pm

Or you can also send your online application at hr_cp@pacific.net.ph or call 910-5175 for inquiries.

Stores Specialists, Inc.

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- Female; between 24-35 years old
- Degree in Business, Marketing Management or Mass Communications
- Minimum of three (3) years work experience in advertising, publicity or marketing
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- Must possess a pleasing, outgoing and bubbly personality
- Must be proficient in both oral and written communications
- Must be computer literate

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO E-MAIL OR SEND IMMEDIATELY THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND A RECENT 2X2 PHOTO TO:

STORES SPECIALISTS, INC.
Human Resources Management Division
(c/o Executive Administration)
Ground Floor Midland Buendia bldg.
403 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
E-mail address: cspagkalinawan@rgoc.com.ph

(We will reply to qualified applicants only)

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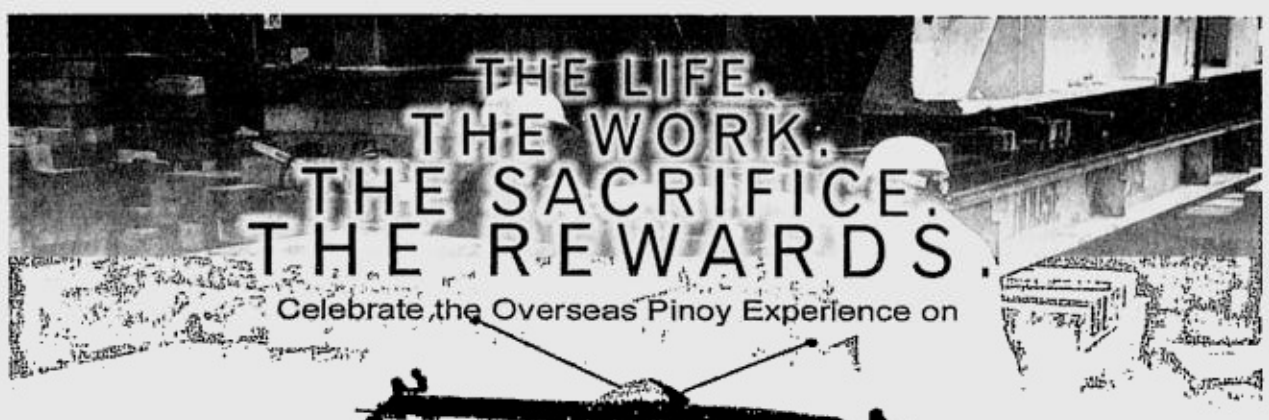
If you left an indelible impact on the product(s) you currently manage but are looking for that rare challenge of launching a new product, then please submit your application and resumé to:

Head of Finance & Corporate Affairs
OEP Philippines, Inc.
6/F, Sedcco I Building cor. Rada & Legaspi Sts.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City

or by email to aidadeleon@oep.com.ph
to be received not later than 03 October 2003

OEP Philippines, Inc.



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LIBANGAN SA DUBAI. Discover the many ways our Overseas Pinoys deal with homesickness!

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cor. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Fax No. 753-2161, e-mail at p.regio@nipponlife-phil.com.ph

How to find a career counselor

DEAR WW: I'm looking for a job. I went to a career counselor who came up with a bunch of lame ideas and then said our contract was over when none of them panned out. Am I crazy to think about going to another one, or are they all useless?

I'd Rather Switch Than Fight

Last Christmas, security officers at England's Manchester airport discovered a number of packages that appeared to contain Semtex, a dangerous explosive. They whisked the packages to an isolated area, opened them up, and found ... a traditional British Christmas pudding. The stuff was so darn dense (according to the News of the Weird) that it had triggered the alarms.

Sounds like your last career counselor was pretty dense too, and should have set off alarms in your head. But don't give up. That counselor was a bomb, but there are others who are dynamite. The questions below will help you find a counselor who will give the kind of help you want. Also check out "Career Bounce Back" by Damian Birkel (Amacom, 1998) and "What Color Is Your Parachute?" by Dick Bolles (10 Speed, 1999), which has a list of counselors in the back. *(Here in the Philippines, try asking training and consultancy companies if they offer these services. – Ed.)*

What's your goal? Some people use counselors to locate the next job. Others want a plan that looks two or three jobs down the road. What are you looking for? How will the counselor help you meet your goals? Career counseling can cover a huge range of services: vocational testing, resume writing, interview coaching, identifying targets for your job search . . . Some people need the whole package; others want help only in specific areas. What do you want? And can you a find a counselor who will do as much or as little as you need?

What's the schedule? Before you commit to a counselor, discuss the vitals: How often will you meet? For how many sessions (or weeks, or months)? Will the counselor flex to accommodate your job hunting or work schedule?

When will the relationship end? Will the relationship end as soon as you get a job? Or will it continue after you've been hired? If it continues, what will be your new goals? Will you have to fork over more dough?

What if you don't get a job? We're talking career counselors here, not magicians, and jobs don't always appear immediately. Can they guarantee to help you as long as you'll need it?

What do former clients say? There's no better way to pre-

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

qualify a counselor than to get references from former clients. Ask for 10 names, then call the bottom four on the list. Not only will you get feedback on the counselor, you'll expand your personal network. Who knows? Maybe one of those people will know of a job ...

It IS possible to find a sweet job that you can really sink your teeth into.

And if you follow these tips, using a career counselor won't blow up in your face.

Here are the results of our last workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com poll: What has your experience been with career counselors?

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

—Career counselors helped me get a job, 5.8%

—Used one but didn't get anything, 39.5%

—Never have used a career counselor, 54.5%

(Mr. Rosner is the author of bestsellers "The Boss's Survival Guide," McGraw Hill 2001, and "Working Wounded," Warner 2000, a speaker and founder of the award-winning Working Wounded.com & Retention-Evangelist.com. He is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Email him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

Performance based rewards ...

From page K16

ests) to a particular job, career development programs that facilitate employees personal and professional growth also works well in sustaining the motivation of intrinsically motivated people to do well.

Motivators

Receiving rewards and incentives, chance for promotion, recognition from superiors and peers and fear of losing one's job are basically external motivators. These are the things that a person gets from his or her external environment. And these are typical forms of "motivators" for performance that organizations offer.

Since rewards and incentives ranked as the second reason that make people want to perform better, the next logical question is then – what kind of rewards? Most companies promote a certain form of rewards program for its employees, especially for frontline positions such as sales and customer service. Rewards range from cash bonuses, plaques of recognition to plane tickets to various vacation spots. But what do employees really consider as meaningful rewards? Again, we turn to our respondents for answers to this question. The top five preferred forms of rewards and incentives are as followed based on our survey: Travel - 60.92%,Cash - 56.32%, Gadgets - 33.33%, Household appliances - 24.14%, Awards & celebrations - 20.69%.

Aside from these top choices, respondents also cited audio-video equipment (16.09%), gift certificates (14.44%), gym/sports packages (12.64%), food (8.05%), media publicity and exposure (5.75%) and personal items (2.30%) as desirable forms of rewards.

Company performance

How do workers feel about linking rewards to individual and organizational performance? Around 86.42% of respondents disagree that everyone should get equal rewards regardless of individual performance. Moreover, 95% say that higher performers should be rewarded and an overwhelming 98.82% state that rewards should be based on performance. This view should be encouraging to many organizations. From the more traditional bases of tenure or loyalty and the equal sharing promoted by collective bargaining agreements and across-the-board profit-sharing, these results seem to indicate that employees nowadays see performance as the more fitting basis for giving and receiving rewards and incentives. It may be inferred that meritocracy is an organizational value that our respondents share. By the results, it seems people believe in the saying, "You get what you deserve."

Do rewards actually motivate people to perform better? One important link to complete this powerful and effective cycle is an organization's ability to appropriately reward the right kind and level of performance. For rewards to enhance and sustain motivation, certain systems and standards have to be in place. For one, performance appraisal systems that link performance to rewards must have clear, unbiased and reasonable criteria. More often than not, ambiguity leads to dissatisfaction and, ultimately, to a loss of motivation. Also, considering that so many different kinds of rewards exist, it is best to custom fit an organization's rewards to what is important to the employee. In this way, both the employee and organization needs are met.

Understanding

Finally, when given the statement, "If I perform well, I should get a reward even if my company is not doing well," a majority of 64.56 percent of respondents disagreed. Clearly, this sentiment indicates that employees understand that rewards are not only dependent on individual performance but also contingent upon the performance of the entire organization. Given the reality of higher costs and stiffer competition, employees do consider the financial capability of the organization and accept that limitations on rewards in consideration of the big picture. It underscores the importance of ensuring that individual performance goals are aligned with the organization's goals and that employees are aware of the organization's over all state of health.

People do naturally respond to rewards. Perhaps it is inherent in our nature. Or perhaps we have been exposed to it from an early age. However, one of the wonders of being human is the natural ability and tendency to evolve and reach for one's best. In the workplace, allowing this natural ability to bloom and work can be a powerful phenomenon. And as for rewards, we all love them. *(Email feedback to ateneocord@admu.edu.ph.)*

REX GROUP OF COMPANIES

We need people for our Tuguegarao Branch

BRANCH SUPERVISOR

Male/Female, not more than 35 years old, Marketing or any business related course. With 2 years experience in handling store outlet. Proven track record in maximizing sales results. With pleasing personality and can work efficiently under pressure. Willing to work beyond official working time.

CASHIER/BOOKKEEPER

Female, BSBA Accounting graduate with or without experience. Not more than 27 years old. With matured disposition, pleasing personality and computer literate.

UTILITY MAN/LIAISON

Male, not more than 26 years old. At least college level. Willing to perform menial function of the position.

Interested applicants may send their resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 picture through mail, email or fax to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
84-86 P. Florentino St., Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City
E-mail address: hrmd@rexpublishing.com.ph
or Fax No. (632) 448-7497

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QUALIFICATIONS:
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- 1 to 3 months related job experience
- Must have a pleasant personality and good voice modulation
- Communication skills

RESPONSIBILITIES:
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- Conducts regular check-up of trunklines and ports and reports to the in-house electrician or PLDT Repair Services, PABX Technician, Voice Mail Technician any line trouble or defects for immediate action

Mail your application letter and comprehensive resumé to:
HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
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Sunday PEOPLE at WORK

Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

PEOPLE AT WORK PULSE

Performance based rewards matter at work

What's inside

Working Wounded p. K14

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By Karen Yao and Bo Peep Franco, Ateneo Center for Organization Research & Development (Ateneo CORD)

WHY do we work, and what will make us work better? To answer this question, many theories have been proposed and studies conducted. Some theories and studies state that people work to fulfill needs and obligations or to satisfy personal needs for fulfillment and meaning or because it is what is expected of adults. But why do some people excel at work while others stay mediocre? What spells the difference?

Reward syndrome

As kids, you may recall eagerly rushing home to show your parents stars for good behavior or report cards that glowed with high marks. It may be that you would receive a nice treat or simply a word of praise for your achievement. These days, some people say that they "reward" themselves by relaxing in various nightspots after a week of hard work. TV, print and radio ads also encourage us to "reward" ourselves with various products and services for our achievements. All these are aimed at developing and maintaining a connection between enjoying something as a positive consequence of effort, hard work and achievement.

This study aimed to get a glimpse of how readers felt about the relationship between work and rewards. What motivates workers to perform better? What types of rewards and incentives are meaningful to today's working person? Who should be rewarded? Do people see good performance as the key to receiving rewards? Conversely, are rewards necessary to inspire and sustain good performance?

Eighty-seven people responded to this survey. About 73.81 percent belonged to business organizations while 11.90 percent were from government institutions. Respondents from the academe and non-corporate sectors (NGOs, CSOs) numbered 7.14 percent each.

Performance drive

What drives people to improve their job performance? Interestingly enough, 32.18 percent of our respondents state that the personal need to do one's best is their motivation. Next to this, 25.29% attribute it to rewards/ incentives, while 24.14% are moved by the chance for promotion. Only 14.94 percent reported wanting to perform better to get recognition from peers and superiors and 3.45% out of fear of losing their jobs.

Implications

What are the implications of having a workforce that performs better out of a personal need for success? People who strive to do well out of intrinsic needs, such as the personal desire to attain goals and a sense of achievement, tend to work well, whether or not tangible rewards such as bonuses or materials things are offered. More than those things, they value challenges and opportunities that allow them to develop their skills, interests and abilities fully.

However, when people say they want to do their best, the underlying assumption is that they have a fair chance of doing their best. As such, individuals and organizations benefit best when they ensure the right person-to-job fit. When a person is grossly under qualified or overqualified for a particular job, any chance of doing one's best flies out the window and the task and person are both doomed to failure. In addition to the careful matching of a person's competencies (knowledge, skills, attitudes and inter

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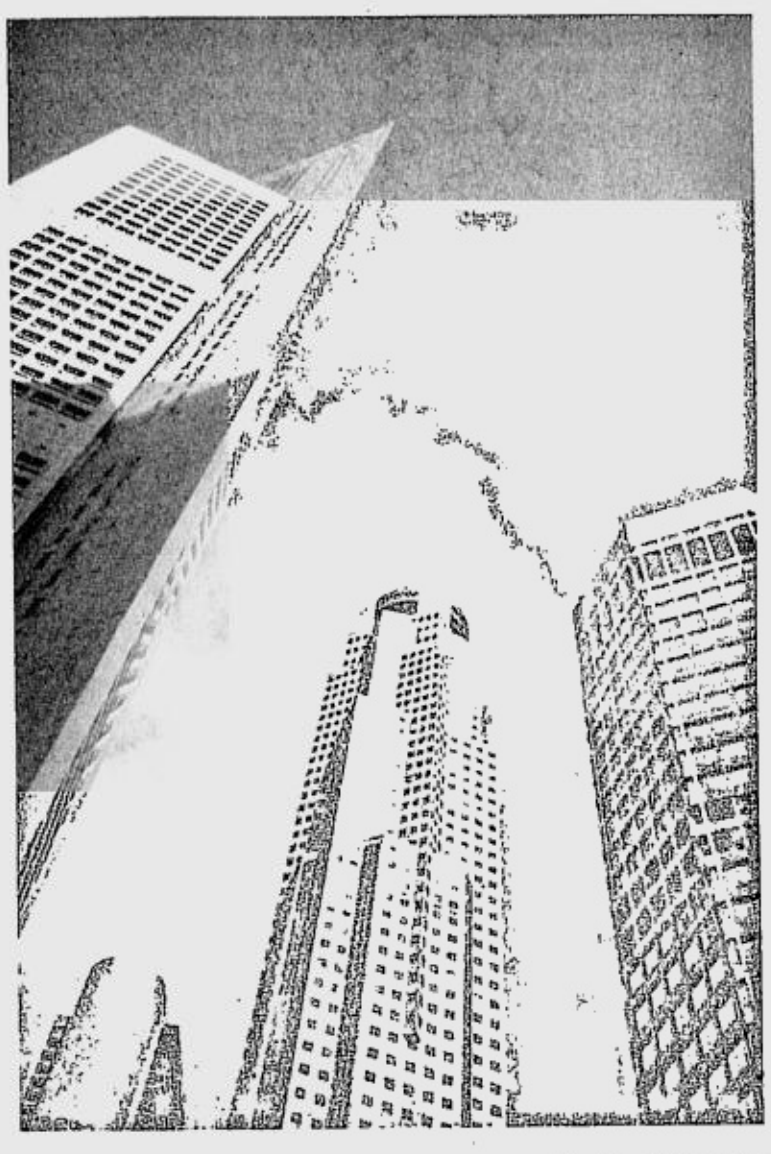

'My boyfriend needs a job'

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

By Tita Datu Puangco

I ADMIRE how you advise your letter senders about their concerns and your God-centered outlook in life. My concern is this. My boyfriend has finished only two years of college and he has been looking for a stable job that could help him finish his studies. His family cannot support him. He had several jobs already but they only lasted not more than two months. He left his jobs because either he cannot perform according to the expectations of the employer or the employer does not give a fair compensation.

I am already worried for his future and ours. It has been more than a year now. He has been applying but hasn't found the right job. I told him he could try applying in food chains but he is hesitant because of his skin disease. He says they might not want someone with such a problem. Is that true?

How can he organize his resume? Is it right not to mention his "short-term" work experiences? Employers may interpret these short-term jobs negatively. Is there hope that he could find a job where his interest (writing) is? However, employers always look for a college degree. I believe in his skills, he really writes well.

Well, thanks for your time. I hope God will use you to enlighten me. And if you don't mind, please contact me if ever you get across job opportunities suited for him or you know some full scholarship grants that would allow him to go to school again. I'd be glad to hear from you. God bless you and your ministry!

Ms. Hopeful

Advice FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I can sense your anxiety over your boyfriend and your future together. I want to confirm your observations. The job market is very tight. College graduates are having a tough time landing jobs. So it is no wonder that your boyfriend is finding much difficulty finding a job.

You mentioned that he has worked before but he did not last more than two months. I suggest you coach your boyfriend to persevere at work. This is so important for job retention and fulfillment. Having a single skill like writing may no longer be adequate to find work. Then again, you mentioned that your boyfriend has skin disease. I suggest you see a doctor to try to find a cure. It is true, fast food companies make sure that their employees are healthy and pleasant to look at.

The challenge for your boyfriend, aside from the lack of a completed college education, is how to grow in emotional intelligence. In these dynamic and stressful times, it is essential for all of us to tolerate all kinds of stress whether at work or in other facets of our life. The goal is to be able to function at peak performance even during stressful times. Emotion has its roots from a Latin word meaning to set in motion. When a person is right emotionally, he can bring forth his talents and skills and perform. When one is not emotionally right, then no amount of talent will matter.

Now, what are the qualities linked to emotional intelligence? First is emotional flexibility. It is the ability to be open, expansive and non-defensive in the face of crisis. One can summon a wide range of positive emotions such as humor, joy and a fighting spirit. The second is emotional responsiveness. During stress, the emotionally responsive remains fully connected and in touch with the forces around them. As storms intensify, they remain alive, spirited and sensitive to whatever is happening.

The third indicator is emotional strength. It is the ability to resist and exert great positive force emotionally, to exercise whatever levels of emotional strength necessary to get the job done emotionally. Fourth is emotional resiliency. It is the ability to bounce back from setbacks, losses and emotional hits quickly and easily without being deterred from a goal. Morikei Ueshiba says, "Depending on the circumstance, you should be as hard as a diamond, flexible as a willow, smooth flowing like water or as empty as space."

Should he include his short job stints in his resume? My answer to this question is: if the experience and exposure are not substantial, then he does not have to. How can he write his resume? A resume is an opportunity for a future employer to review a person's qualifications. It can help your boyfriend land a job interview. But it has to be written in a way that the future employer would find readable. Be sure there are no misspelled words or grammatical errors. Then, review the resume carefully so that it is an authentic yet a good presentation of credentials.

Customize the resume for a specific target position. With the requirements of a position in mind, emphasize the skills or qualities that are proper for the position at hand. Help your boyfriend write his resume. Share with him the outstanding traits and qualities that employers would be willing to consider so that he could put them in writing. A resume can focus either on activities on campus such as being a staff of the school paper or an officer in a school organization or on skills and competencies such as his writing ability.

One possibility for your boyfriend is to apply as a student assistant in his school. Some schools provide partial or full scholarships for student assistants. But, once again, I have to underline the importance of attitude and emotional intelligence. It is important for your boyfriend to motivate himself, to overcome and conquer himself to reach his goals.

Let us hope that a reader with a vacancy for an undergraduate may read your letter and offer your boyfriend a job. All the best.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through email to advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to 892-2902)*

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Gospel Mark 9:38-48

"And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. Better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into Gehenna, where 'their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.'"

Mental fat

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

HAVE you ever tried being massaged by the blind? Some of them work at the departure lounges of our provincial airports and piers, and for fifty pesos they'll do you from the waist up as you kill time waiting for your plane or boat. They're good. Their sense of touch is so developed that they've become more sensitive to your body, and because they're blind, they are not easily distracted by the goings-on around us that we seeing people would probably even ogle at.

Just as our eyes can give us pleasure, they can also give us misery. As food does to our body, so our eyes do to our mind: what we feed our eyes, our mind chews upon, and that, to a large extent, can determine the state of our mental health.

The workplace exposes us to so much 'junk food' for our eyes –for example, things about our coworkers that make us envious or resentful. If we're not careful, these things will worm their way into our consciousness, keeping us fretful and burning with anxiety, self-pity or hatred, preventing us from focusing on what we're there to do in the first place: work. Distractions that through our eyes lead to destructive emotions are "fat" for our mind—too "heavy" to digest, they weigh down our mental processes until we become too lazy to realize that it is we who are at fault for allowing such distractions to control us. But there is a way out: put our eyes to good use, open our mind to good news. Remember that guy who two thousand years ago made the blind see and drove hell out of people's hearts? He can help, more than your boss or Bro. Mike can. *(Email the author at* avemaria@csi.com.ph.*)*

'Maski papaano'

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

JESUS is a perfectionist in the Gospel phrase chosen for this reflection. He teaches people not to compromise at all when it is a matter of keeping oneself whole and worthy for the Kingdom of God. The required wholeness is not a physical one but a spiritual integrity shown in the strong determination to "pluck out" anything that will be a cause for one's eternal destruction. He challenges us to uprightness and perfection in our work and life.

There are workers who are perfectionists. They employ everything they have, such as their senses and other mental abilities, in order to perform at their best. Perhaps, we envy their work accomplishments but we may find their work style too demanding and less enjoyable. We might therefore prefer to work "*maski papaano na lang*."

However, doing our work *maski papaano*, without setting high standards of excellence is like cutting off something in our God-given human capacity. Being afraid or too lazy to make extra preparations for our assigned job is like discarding and not appreciating the talents we have received from our Creator.

Working to the letter what is written in our job contract and not giving extra time and effort, is like reducing our humanity to the amount of money given for our work. But, when we use our senses and our whole being in performing our work even if it causes us "hell" -physical pain and fatigue, it is like "plucking them out" and entering into the blissful feeling of one who has done an excellent job and of one created in the image and likeness of the Perfect God. *(Email the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net.*)*

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

September 28, 2003

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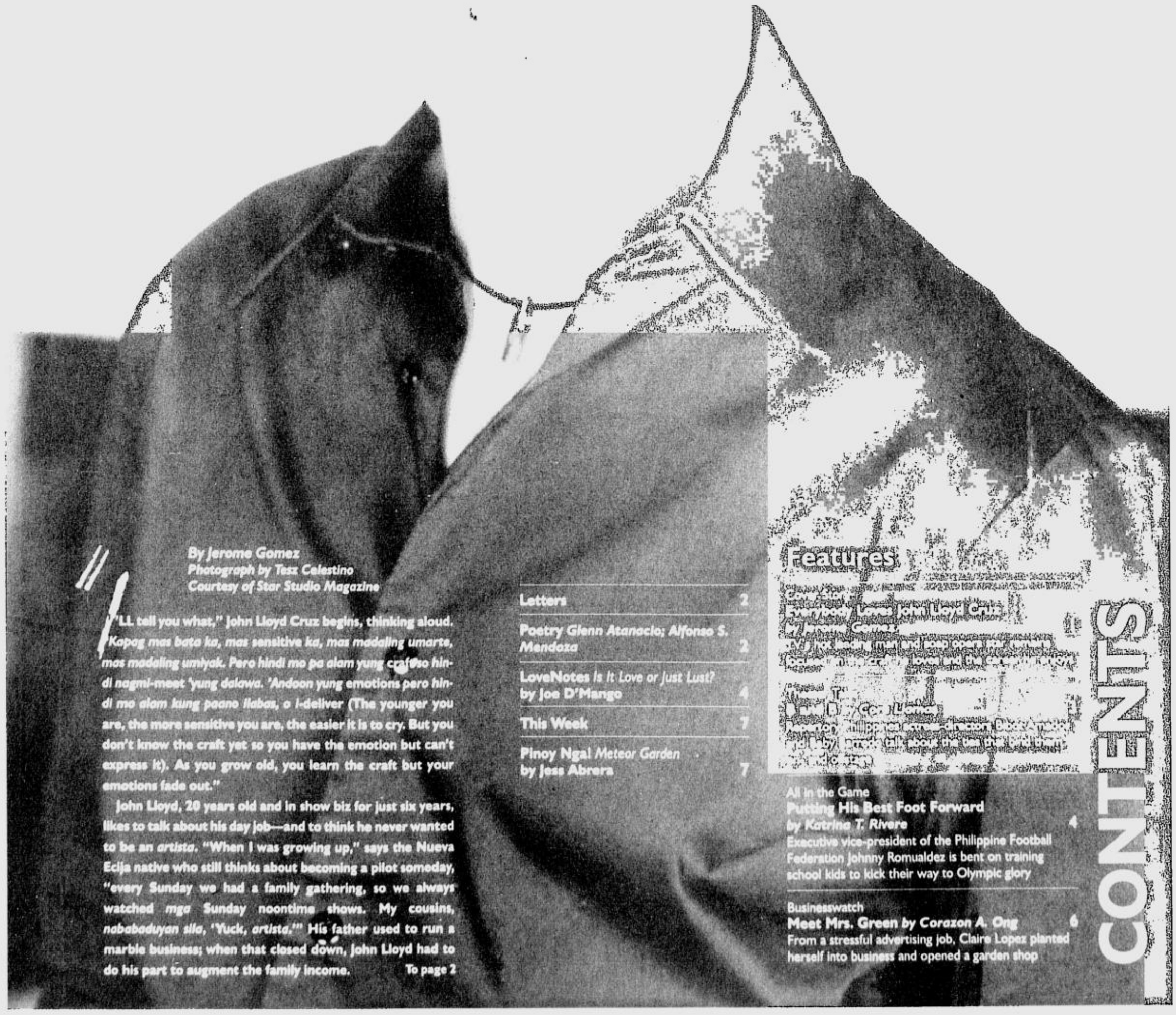

By Jerome Gomez
Photograph by Tesz Celestino
Courtesy of Star Studio Magazine

"I'LL tell you what," John Lloyd Cruz begins, thinking aloud. "Kapag mas bata ka, mas sensitive ka, mas madaling umarte, mas madaling umiyak. Pero hindi mo pa alam yung craft so hindi nagmi-meet 'yung dalawa. 'Andoon yung emotions pero hindi mo alam kung paano ilabas, o i-deliver (The younger you are, the more sensitive you are, the easier it is to cry. But you don't know the craft yet so you have the emotion but can't express it). As you grow old, you learn the craft but your emotions fade out."

John Lloyd, 20 years old and in show biz for just six years, likes to talk about his day job—and to think he never wanted to be an *artista*. "When I was growing up," says the Nueva Ecija native who still thinks about becoming a pilot someday, "every Sunday we had a family gathering, so we always watched *mga* Sunday noontime shows. My cousins, *nababaduyan sila*, 'Yuck, *artista*.'" His father used to run a marble business; when that closed down, John Lloyd had to do his part to augment the family income. To page 2

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Executive vice-president of the Philippine Football Federation Johnny Romualdez is bent on training school kids to kick their way to Olympic glory

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From a stressful advertising job, Claire Lopez planted herself into business and opened a garden shop

John ...from page 1

PDI PHOTO

Sharing a light moment on the *"Kay Tagal"* set with Bea Alonzo

We are at the Talent Center lounge of ABS-CBN, and today is one of those rare days when "Lloydy," as he is called by the talent handlers in the room, has woken up from a full eight hours of sleep. Early in his career, he used to party hard; now, the work schedule allows very little time for that. Today he looks refreshed. He just had a haircut. His little-boy charm is downplayed by a seriously slim black shirt, dark and narrow denim pants, sleek square-toed shoes, and serious actor talk: "If you've been playing a role for a long time, you can't endure a pain for so long because in the long run, you can accept that; it will pass. That will disappear, *so doon pumapasok yung* craft. You get into the character, you learn techniques."

In an hour, he will have to face entertainment reporters for a press conference in the next building. He is dreading it. He says he can't 't quite force himself to relax when faced with too many people whose attention is all on him. Sometimes he can't tell where the questions are coming from. Sometimes he just sits there, and everything becomes a bit hazy. John Lloyd may talk the serious actor talk, but the technique for cozying up to the thought that he is an *artista*? His acting mentor Johnny Delgado didn't quite brief him in that department.

John Lloyd, if you haven't noticed yet, is the young actor of the hour, a familiar face to soap fans from Aparri to Jolo who has even grandmothers swooning over those puppy-dog eyes. He headlines the highest-rating of all the ABS-CBN teleseryes, *"Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay." "Tabing Ilog,"* the Sunday drama he shares with other stars from his Star Circle batch, is on its fifth year; the love story that involves his character and that of Kaye Abad remains the heart of the show.

And then there are the product endorsements: a clothing line, a footwear brand, a whitening soap and even a sanitary napkin. This October, just after *"Kay Tagal's"* final chapter comes to a close, his first feature film outing, "My First Romance," where he stars with her small-screen partner Bea Alonzo, is due for release.

He is now a big star. His name is in the same privileged ranks as those of Piolo Pascual and Jericho Rosales, and it ain't all that surprising. He has the air of mystery of Piolo, and the easy, approachable charm of Jericho. He is Piolo but cooler, and Jericho but more laidback. Like the two, he is steadfast in becoming a serious actor. The only difference, perhaps, is that this passion doesn't seem to occupy their minds the way it does John Lloyd's.

"I learned to love the job only after a year or so in show biz, but not the craft," he says. "It was only a year ago when I realized this is the craft I want." This was the time *"Kay Tagal"* began airing. It was also the break that would make him a star.

Five years ago, things didn't look as promising. He was launched as part of Koolits, the trio of boys that included Baron Geisler and Marc Solis. Even with a regular stint on "ASAP," the group never took off. There was even a time his three other shows, *"Palibhasa Lalake," "Kaybol"* and "Gimik" got axed one after the other. He was in tears. He thought it was the end of a short-lived career. Fortunately, the offer to do *"Tabing Ilog"* came soon after.

Whoever said it's easy to be an *artista* should have a session with the guy. And it's best to take him seriously because, after all, he's already gotten noticed. In 2001, John Lloyd bested Jericho in the Best Actor category of Star Awards for TV. He talks about getting into character, losing John Lloyd and embracing full-on personalities totally different from his. Like that of Rovic, the young father in *"Tabing Ilog,"* or Yuri, the vengeful son and fierce lawyer in *"Kay Tagal."* That actors in teleseryes don't get enough time to prepare and study their scripts make the job more of a challenge.

"An actor's life is very interesting," he says. *"Dami mong nakikilala, dami mong nagagawa.* Feeling *ko* being an actor is a journey. Portraying different roles, it's like you're opening up a new side of your life. It doesn't really happen to you, but you get to explore so much, go to so many places."

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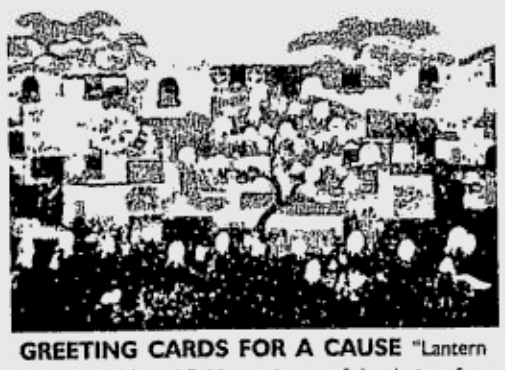


GREETING CARDS FOR A CAUSE "Lantern Parade" by Manuel Baldemor is one of the designs featured in this year's Hallmark for Leukemic Indigents Fund Endowment (LIFE) Christmas cards. Proceeds from sale will provide sustained medical treatment for poor leukemic children. For inquiries, call 671-0555. *For more of* This Week, *see page 7*

Poetry

Pang-alap
Black Saturday in Siquijor

Spirit smoke lifting from a cauldron of ash,
Day enters land with the blue hand of waking.
The god of Spain is dead. In his absence,
How the banished rise, engendered by fire
And earth: lightning teeth, candle wax,
Stones and shadows. The ancients stalk
Through trees, caves; brown blood
In the bay of Lazi. Rousing from sleep,
The governor finds evil eyes, glaring,
Sliding through narra planks and ventanillas,
Covering the convent and churches,
Marking the paleness of his skin.
Isla del Fuego dims. From such strangeness,
Even fireflies hide. Scrambling through villages,
Landlords seek black tongues for words
Against their enemies. Fangs of snakes,
Dancing dolls, the joined genitals of turtles?
Are these the ones we left, away, to languish
In the mountains? Late into darkness, the aged
Tell of the island, hidden in sea and squall,
Awakened by light from distant places. Returning
To night, it is the point where visions dawn,
Where secrets speak, an old world swallowing us,
Whole.

Glenn Atanacio

Linggo ng Hika

Wala naman akong hika
Bakit ipinagdiriwang pa
Ang Linggo ng Hika
Meron tayong wika
Bakit ipinagdiriwang pa
Ang Linggo ng Wika?
Buong taon ay walang hika
Bakit inihihirit pa
Ang isang Linggo ng Hika?
Buong taon ay merong wika
Bakit inihihirit pa
Ang isang Linggo ng Wika?
Linggo ng Hika, Linggo ng Wika
Aba, anong wika pa kaya
Ang hihigit pa, sa wikang may hika?

Alfonso S. Mendoza

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <poetry_sim@inquirer.com.ph>

HIGH ON EDU AND LUIS

I would like to let you know that I always read the SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE. Congratulations! I really liked the article you wrote on Edu and Lucky Manzano ("Male Bonding," **SIM**, 27 July 2003). I wish my daddy were more like Mr. Manzano. Edu and Lucky seem to be very close and I admire them so much. How I wish you guys could write more about them and their lives. Their commercial is so cool. I hope they would still have more. The article was really great! More power, **SIM**!

MARK SEVERINO
markeeh2003@yahoo.com

MORE ON THE PALANCAS

I'd also like to express my observations about those Palanca Award-winning writers, having read one of the letters in your September 21, 2003 issue.

Writers in this country start as literary writers, but usually end up arguing that writing on politics and economics is the only way to develop their skill. This is understandable because we are in the Third World where everybody measures everything in terms of politics and money. With economic and political problems glowering at them everyday, literary writers have no means of escape except joining the stream of commercial and political writers.

Your article about this Palanca award-winning writer Boni Ilagan ("Still Committed After All These Years," **SIM**, 21 September 2003) said he couldn't avoid going commercial and political (a euphemism for prostituting his talent). Is it logical then to think that the Palanca is only a point of departure for those kinds of writers?

LORENZO A. FERNANDEZ, JR.
loaferjr2@yahoo.com

ATTENTION CONTRIBUTORS!

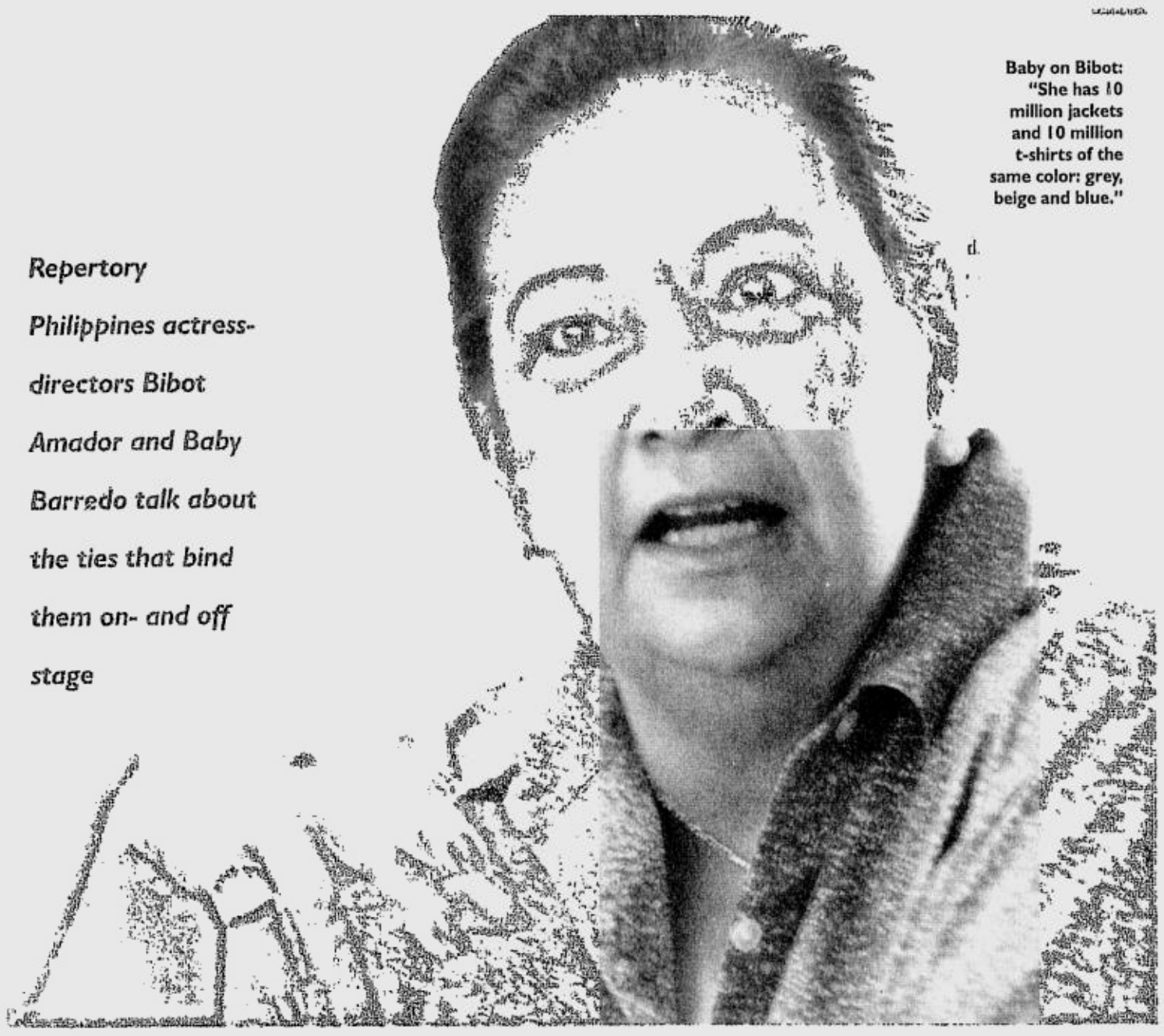
SIM strives to pay our valued contributors within three weeks of publication of an article or poem. However, to facilitate preparation of your fees — and to avoid an unnecessary trip! — please give the Cashier a call at tel. no. 897-8808 local 533 to confirm if your check is ready before visiting. Many thanks and keep them coming!

Theater Tales

By Cora Llamas
Photographs by Jess Yuson

B and B

Repertory Philippines actress-directors Bibot Amador and Baby Barredo talk about the ties that bind them on- and off stage



Baby on Bibot: "She has 10 million jackets and 10 million t-shirts of the same color: grey, beige and blue."

THEY'RE considered the pillars of Repertory Philippines, mentoring hundred of actors and directing scores of plays for more than 25 years. Zeneida "Bibot" Amador minces no words when it comes to punctuality and professionalism; Baby Barredo's stage roles have spanned those of virgin queens to doting mothers. Both are close collaborators, bosom buddies, and each other's director.

Yet they rarely appear together onstage. In the upcoming one-woman show "Late Nite Catechism," they still don't. But in alternating for the role of the irreverent teaching nun and directing each other behind the scenes, the duo's creativity shines through. Their bond is unmistakable, and a casual conversation over lunch reveals the many layers that compose it.

Sunday Inquirer Magazine: As an actor, what's the one thing you don't do to Zeneida Amador when she's directing?

Baby: Be lazy. Come to rehearsals prepared. Show her what you've got! It's not just memorizing your lines, but knowing and understanding your character.

SIM: What is Baby's strength as an actress?

Bibot: She amazes me every time. I always think of myself as a better actress, but she's not predictable. In every performance, there's a nuance, a subtlety, and a timing that comes so easily. Her focus is unbeatable. When we walk for exercise, she doesn't hear me when I talk to her because she's going through the lines in her head. A house could fall down beside her and she won't notice. That's why she always needs someone beside her when she walks, because a car just might run over her. Literally.

SIM: How would you describe Bibot as an actress

Baby: It's easy to direct her. She doesn't act, she's just that character.

Bibot: In "Whose Life Is It Anyway," I played the patient. I don't move at all. I can only move my head. During production week, she told me, "You are so boring. Nobody is that depressed, that angry, and that one-color all the time. Life is not like that. You change the attack."

SIM: What's the one thing that you don't do to Baby an actress if you want the best from her

Bibot: I will never be late. Or not know the script or where to place them in blocking.

Bab Other directors let me do what I want—maybe it's the respect or the stature—but I don't like that. I want them to tell me where I'm lacking or if I come on too strong. Every actor needs a director. I keep waiting for them to direct me, and they don't. Maybe they're afraid, but I won't scream at them. I'd ask the director, but the answers would be unclear.

Bibot is very specific. She knows what she wants as a director. But she's very impatient. Right away, I know what she wants, but not every actor is like that. First day of rehearsals, *mainit na ang ulo niya* (and she's already in a bad mood). I'm more patient until I reach rock bottom, and then *lagot lahat sila* (watch out)!

They're more scared of me, because I don't shout all the time. Bibot shouts everyday—with the other actors, it's in one ear, and out the other.

Bibot: I have taken credit for the many things that Baby has done. When we're directing together, she has many ideas and makes me see things that I don't. I get the credit because she's not *ma*-PR (she's self-effacing).

Baby: I'm a recluse.

Bibot: She'd rather not go to parties or interviews or have her picture taken. All that is just peripheral to her art. Whereas I have to talk to more people. My job pushes me to do it.

Baby: If you ask me how much the tickets are, I wouldn't know. Bibot allows me to concentrate on my creativity. That's why we make a good partnership. She can be on one side of the theater, I can be on the other, but we'd get the same idea at the same time.

Bibo Sometimes, we don't jive. She thinks of something outrageous, and I think of the expenses.

Baby: She would think nothing of buying a P4,000 pair of sneakers. But in a production, she would tell me that (my ideas) would be too expensive. I've been wanting to do "Peter Pan," but the flying machine alone is too costly.

SIM: Man the Rep act describe as their second pa nt

Baby: The bonding that goes onstage never goes away. I see many of them as my daughters, like Menchu (Yulo) and Monique (Wilson).

Bibot: I feel the same way, although in a less motherly way. You also have to think of theater as an enterprise and be less emotional with people. You cannot be so attached that you cannot see objectively. If your heart bleeds for every single person, then you'll have no heart left for your work. Since Baby has nothing to do with the business side...

Baby: I can love more! They are all my babies in Rep.

SIM: Some of the yo...ge.. ..cto: ..av. move the con it after the time, emotion and t ing you've e . How d u feel abou that honesth

Bibot: If you hold them back and deprive them of opportunities, that is a great injustice. And how do you leave room for the others who do have to be trained? We would be going against our mission to professionalize theater if we stop these actors from growing or seeking greener pastures.

Baby: Even a mother has to cut the string that binds her to her child.

Bibot: Sometimes, they tell us that they might be late or can't make it on certain performances. Then we work it out and weigh it. As much as possible, you allow them because you don't want to deprive them of a living. *Kung alam ko naman na hindi nag-i-istambay sa* bar. *Kasi kung iyon, bugbugan na!* (As long as I know they're not hanging out in a bar or something. If they are, then it's war!)

SIM: Yet you've acquired a reputatio as intimidat Ha you mellowed since? Are you l ow?

Bibot: I'm as strict now. This reputation business is funny. Just because I have been demanding what any theater company in the world would demand. All I ask is that they come on time and deliver the goods they are committed to deliver. It really boggles my mind when people renege on their promise.

SIM How do you handle the pressure?

Baby: We're both *mahjonggeras* (we play mahjong). She has her friends, I have mine. We also travel at least once a year.

SIM: Which countries are your favorites

Baby: Spain. The people are so warm. And I speak the language.

Bibot. Paris is so sophisticated. It's so beautiful when you see it in lights.

Baby: We watch other theater productions in New York and London. We're going home from one trip and Bibot is already thinking where we can go next just to unwind.

Bibot: Travel is also a way to get input for theater. You take pictures of quaint scenes, houses, the countryside, little towns. Your production designer would then paint accordingly for a scene that's set in Spain. Or we can tell our actors why they're wearing all those coats and scarves in a London play.

SIM: Anything else you like to do?

Baby: I embroider. I cannot just sit in front of a TV and watch. Bibot gets mad at me because I sometimes don't get to follow a show because I'm embroidering.

Bibot: I love reading. All kinds: Shakespeare, Ludlum, Isabel Allende. I have a book club that discusses a book a week. The members started out reading the classics as a point of departure. Now, we read Indian and Vietnamese authors.

SIM: How are you differen?

Baby: Bibot has this passion for wallets and portfolios with cases. I like pretty things. When we shop abroad, I hide everything because she says our baggage will go overweight. She also loves to shop—but it's always for the same things. She has 10 million jackets and 10 million t-shirts of the same color: grey, beige and blue.

Bibot: I like black T-shirts with collars. I don't care if they think I didn't dress up.

Baby. For me, this piece has to be matched with this one.

Bibot: She even dresses up the actors.

Baby: In the set design, as far as the décor is concerned, it's my job. I'm very detailed. Every single thing that you put in the production has to be important. Sometimes Bibot gets mad at me because I lend a flower vase or an ashtray to the production. We don't put it in our programs, but I do the light design in our productions.

SIM: Will we be seeing more joint performances in the future, within and outside of Rep?

Baby: *Nagkataon lang iyan* (This is just a happy coincidence). In "The Vagina Monologues," Monique said that this is the first time in 23 years that we were both onstage.

Bibot: It would depend on the material. If we can share our love and commitment to theater, then I guess we've done our job.

Bibot on Baby: "She thinks of something outrageous, and I think of the expenses."

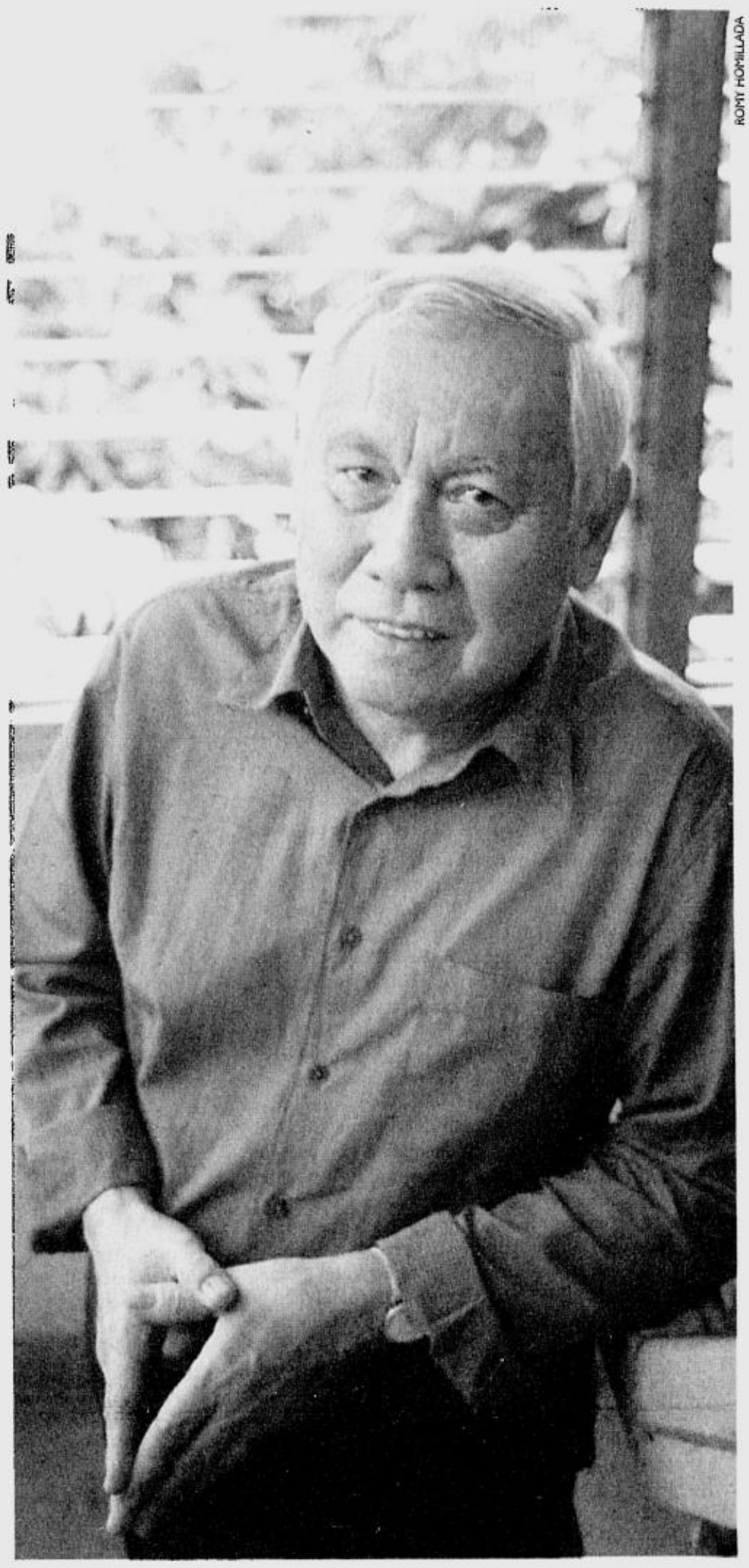
"Late Nite Catechism" opens on Oct. 3 and runs for a month in several venues. Call 891-5610 for details.

All in the Game

By Katrina T. Rivere

Putting His Best Foot Forward

A bench warmer on the national team, Johnny Romualdez is now executive vice president of the Philippine Football Federation, bent on training school kids to kick their way to Olympic glory



ROMY HOMILLADA

JUAN Miguel Romualdez started playing football at 11, and dreamt of becoming a national player. When he finally made it to the national team in the 1962 Asian Games, the Philippines lost to Malaysia, 15-1. They broke that record in the Olympics eliminations in 1967: "We lost 15-0," ruefully recalls this Executive Vice President of the Philippine Football Federation (PFF).

Not only did they lose ignominiously, he adds, he was also a bench warmer. "So can you imagine what people were saying? If these 11 guys are playing a terrible game, what about those guys sitting in the bench? They must be worse!"

His less than auspicious beginnings have since driven Johnny Romualdez to try and kick football several notches up from the bottom of Philippine sports where it has been languishing for decades.

As of April 2003, he says, the Philippines is ranked 181 out of the total 204 member countries of the Federation International Football Association (FIFA). Out of 44 Asian members of FIFA, the country ranks seventh to the last, Romualdez adds.

Such a sorry showing has led the Executive Council of the PFF to design a five-year football development plan that included a grassroots component. But it wasn't until 1998, when FIFA gave a $1-million sports grant each to member countries that the program came to life. Thus was Kasibulan 6-12 born, a brainchild of Romualdez, German football development expert and PFF Consultant Bernd Fischer, Edward Magallona, Marcelino Carpio, and the late football advocate Chris Monfort.

Kasibulan or *sibol*, which translates as "offspring" in Filipino, refers to the youth target of the program. Romualdez recalls a football team they had set up in the 1970s called Kasibulan which had the best under-20 players in the country. "It was relatively successful," he says. "Many of those players got into the national team and were able to get a good education at the same time because of the scholarships that we gave them." But as later games showed, the Philippines was too far behind in the game to be competitive. The football officials thus realized that Kasibulan had to target even younger age groups. "We were starting too late," says Romualdez. "The rest of the world are playing football as soon as they could stand up and kick the ball."

With Kasibulan 6-12, children aged 6 to 12 are trained under the grassroots development program. With support from an energy drink, the program has included elementary school teachers who are taught the basics of football during Teach the Teachers seminars. These teachers in turn, organize teams, which play in Adidas Predator Cups, a four-a-side game without goalkeepers.

"Football is one of the best, if not the best of all fundamental sports," says Romualdez. "I think every kid should play football because it makes you strong. When you have strong legs then you can play all the other sports."

Romualdez knows whereof he speaks. The second of seven children of doctors, Johnny is a nephew of former First Lady Imelda Marcos, and the brother of former Health Secretary Alberto Romualdez. He went to the Ateneo "all the way, from Grade 1 to MBA," he says, adding unabashedly that he failed, and had to repeat, second year high school. But he has always been an athlete and aspired to the school's football varsity team. He also went through college on a scholarship from the Yco Athletic Club.

After their traumatic experience in the Olympic Eliminations of 1967, Romualdez, who was captain of the national team, quit for good. But his friends did not allow him to get off so easy. They would pick him up every Sunday morning from his house in Paco, and bring him all the way to the Loyola Heights campus to play. The group eventually expanded to become the Blue Guards football team, a play on that very '60s term, Red Guards of China.

Through he quit playing football professionally, Romualdez was recruited to be the manager of the youth team and was soon setting up the first Kasibulan program for U-20. At the same time, he ran several companies in the mid '70s and found time to settle down and raise three children. He was again "soccered" into the game in 1995, he says, and has been stuck in it since.

The Ateneo Hall of Famer hopes to put up more football clinics and centers in the future. The PFF also intends to add provincial, regional and national competitions among the different age brackets. "In the past, most government efforts were focused on the national teams. But how can you build a house when you don't build the base, the foundation? And that's what we're doing now," Romualdez says. At the same time, he points to the lack of interest in the game. "But because of what we're doing now, a lot of people, while they might not become football players, might at least become fans of the game. And that's the only way we can get this game going."

Not a quick solution, he admits, but a start. On its fifth year now, Kasibulan has succeeded in enticing over 400,000 six to 12-year-old boys and girls to play football. With most of its early graduates now entering their teenage years, the PFF has inaugurated this year an under-14 provincial competition. This should prepare the graduates for participation in the 20-year-old Coke-Go-For-Goal U-16 Football Competitions. The PFF also has U-19 National Competitions and National Open Competitions for Men and for Women that however need to be expanded to cover provincial and regional levels. "Only then can we really begin to organize a strong, self-sufficient commercial league and choose the best players for well-prepared national teams," says Romualdez.

So, are we ever going to win the World Cup?

"That will take a long, long time," he muses. "I'm 61. If I live to be 80, I might yet see it."

LoveNotes

By Joe D' Mango

Is It Love or Just Lust?

One night we made love. I don't know if it had any meaning for him, but since then, I have found myself falling for him. I now want a commitment, but what if he does not?

Dear Joe,

Call me Rizelle, about to turn 23. I'm working in an IT shop and also pursuing a Master's degree at a Metro Manila university.

For years, I've believed in the value of chastity, and that the best gift a bride can give her groom is one's virginity. I've had many relationships before but I never went all the way—until I met Nick.

Nick and I were both members of a student organization that allowed us to share the same house. In the four years I've known him, we were always just friends until that night when we both got drunk. We realized that there was some attraction between us and decided to try some petting. I soon found him avoiding me for some reason.

Since I hated loose ends, I wrote to tell him that I do care for him but if he thinks we're not good for each other, then we can forget what happened but still remain friends. I didn't hear from him after that.

It's true; I do not wish for any commitment at this time because I am still crazy about my former girl friend, though more in the emotional, rather than physical, sense. Yes, Joe, I am bisexual. I date a lot of guys and girls and would occasionally enter into non-committal relationships, most of which I would later regret and end, as soon as I found the other party falling for me.

But deep within, I am somewhat conservative. I just want to flirt to have fun. Besides, I have been a good girl for more than 20 years. Still, I do long for a serious relationship although I've been burnt by my experience with my first girl friend, whom I loved more than myself, and my first boy friend, who is marrying soon. Frankly, these are the only two people whom I could think of spending the rest of my life with. I find the other guys and gals I date not interesting enough, so when they get serious and demanding, I start distancing myself for their own good.

This continued until Nick and I rekindled our old romance. He again moved into the dorm and soon, we were spending more and more time together. And one night, we made love. It was not half as wonderful as I expected it to be. The problem is, I don't know if it had any meaning for him. We did not even have a relationship and never even once did he tell me that he cares for me, much less love me. But I also know that he is not an easy guy, that he would not have done that with me if he did not like me somehow.

I really don't know how he thinks but I realize that since that night, I've been hoping that he would fall for me too. I am deeply in love with him. How else can I explain giving up everything for him?

I am now living in a different dorm to distance myself from him and to think things over. Every time I go to school, the temptation to see him is just too great to resist. So far, he has made no attempts to contact me despite my e-mails and the hints I give him that I'm falling for him. What should I do? I feel it's been ages since I fell in love this way and that's why I don't want to lose this feeling. Despite what happened between us, I feel so clean and right. I no longer long for anyone else. I suddenly became the one-man woman I've always wanted to be. I am no longer afraid to commit again. But should I tell him face to face? Should I go on seeing him?

Rizelle

Dear Rizelle,

There could be a lot of reasons why Nick never mentions anything about what he feels for you. It's true that he could not have gone beyond his limits without having liked you, but liking is different from loving and caring for someone.

There are a lot of men who wrap themselves with an impenetrable barrier that somehow keeps them immune from emotional attacks. Nick is, indeed, not an easy guy. He wants to be in control so he keeps his feelings to himself. He is probably not ready for a commitment and chooses not to get into one yet.

Rizelle, I believe that communication is important in any relationship. Unless we can openly express our feelings, doubts, fears, joy and sadness to a person, then we cannot make a relationship grow. It will stagnate and become dull and lifeless. You can never know what is going on in his mind until you both find time to sit down and talk about your feelings.

You may have made it easy for him to experience how it was to make love, but it still wouldn't have transpired if he didn't want to

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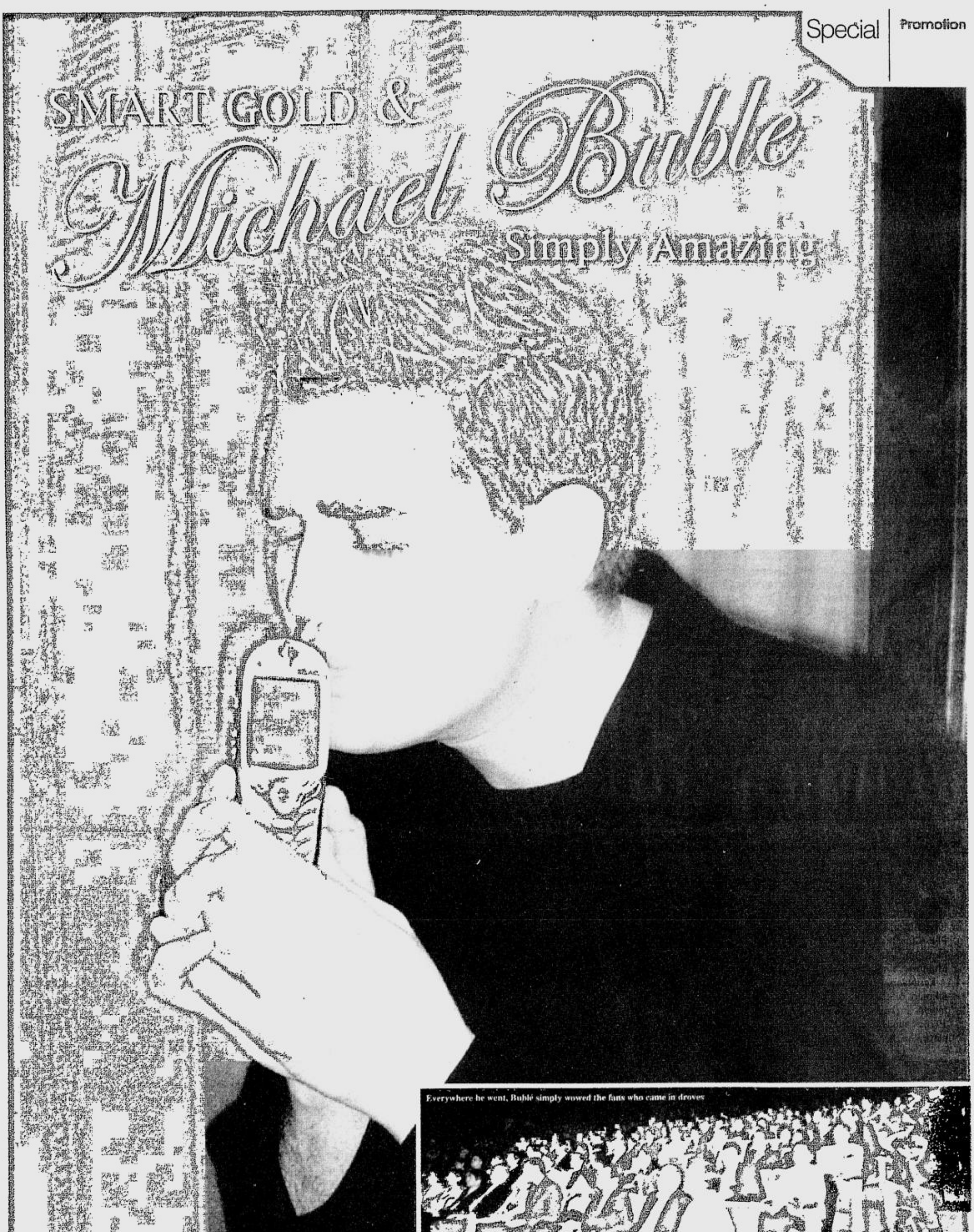
Special | Promotion

SMART GOLD & Michael Bublé

Simply Amazing!



Everywhere he went, Bublé simply wowed the fans who came in droves

PLDT President & CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan with Michael Bublé

A lucky guest gets the memento of a lifetime

The night was a sparkle with Bublé Magic

Michael Bublé and Anton Roxas exchange pleasantries

What better way to shake Manila's rainy day doldrums away than a much-anticipated finger-snappin', toe-tappin' performance from part Italian, part Canadian man of the hour, swinger Michael Bublé!

With SMART as one of the major presenters along with PLDT (whose gala night Saturday served as kick off for PLDT's 75th Anniversary celebrations), NBC's Joey 92.3, MTV Philippines and Philippine Daily Inquirer, Bublé entered stage left and dished out his brand of infectious ol' blue eyes-like melodies and covers which had the thousands in the audience squirming with delight. Shortly said, this amazingly talented crooner simply blew the roof off the PICC with an unforgettable performance that already is the talk of the town.

Already an international phenomenon, the dapper Bublé not only charmed his fans with his refreshing music inspired by the likes of Bobby Darin, Lou Rawls, Frank Sinatra, Stevie Wonder and Vaughan Monroe, but also entertained them through his strong stage presence and showmanship, plus great sense of humor to match. At one point, he even tickled the audience pink with, shall we say, a short tribute to none other than Parokya ni Edgar by breaking into a short song and dance number of the local group's current hit, "Mr. Suave".

Indeed, a befitting song title for Bublé himself!

ADVT.

Businesswatch

By Corazon A. Ong
Photographs by Vicente Carreon

Meet Mrs. Green

WHEN she was growing up, Claire Drueco-Lopez was completely oblivious of the plants and trees in their family garden. "Like most Filipinos, I took them for granted," she says. "Because of our naturally rich soil, we assume that plants will simply grow even without anyone paying them attention."

Today, Claire (a.k.a. Mrs. Green) runs GreenHearts, a garden shop in Quezon City. Why the turnaround? "Motherhood and a sorry-looking rose that bloomed and flourished under my care," she recalls.

She was pregnant with her second child, Roman, when she finally decided to leave the corporate world. A Mass Communication graduate from the University of the Philippines, Claire was enjoying the perks of her job in advertising when motherhood beckoned, initially with her daughter Alexi, now 10. "For years, I've toyed with the idea of leaving my job," she says. "My heart wanted to but my mind said 'no.' I had a good-paying job and tremendously enjoyed the camaraderie around."

She was about to go on a second maternity leave when her boss told her: "When you get back, we expect 150 percent from you." That did it; Claire made her choice. "If I were single, I'd even give you 200 percent of myself but not now; things are different," she told her boss. "My staying on the job won't be fair to everyone—to myself, my family and the company," she added.

Thus was GreenHearts born. But the seed of an idea for a garden shop has been germinating since the early '90s, she says. "The corporate world was very competitive and I wanted to do something relaxing on weekends that would not require much time outside the house. One day, I noticed the garden that I've ignored for years. Since my mother was into growing foliage, I thought I'd go into flowering plants." A desolate rose in a pot that flourished under her care convinced her she could do it. "From an almost withered state, that rose plant recovered and gave me bloom after bloom."

Greatly encouraged, she opened a weekend garden in the garage of their family home at Mother Ignacia complete with a streamer announcing her wares. A few weeks later, customers started coming back, not too surprising since Claire, who used to sell pastries in her office, comes from a business-minded family. "I took their names so I could mail them my newsletter," she says.

From a stressful advertising job, Claire Lopez planted herself into business and opened a garden shop. She found fertile ground for her ideas

Green Tips, a self-published newsletter, is mailed free of charge to her customers. A year ago, she went online (mrs.green@greenhearts.com). Now, thanks to the web, her clients get gardening tips, updated news on available plants and herbs at the shop as well as recipes using fresh herbs, literally at their fingertips.

When Claire started her business, she had several part-time college students to help her. She now employs three regular staff who attend to customers and another who does gardening chores in nearby houses. Running a business, no matter how small, teaches you to focus not only on your products but more so, on your employees, she says.

"If the staff feels good and confident, everything follows. *Maaalagaan nang mahusay ang mga halaman*. (Plants will be better cared for)."

Her advertising background has also trained Claire to listen to customers' feedback, leading her to expand and improve the shop's services. From one small rack, the shop's herb collection now practically occupies the whole roof deck of GreenHearts. "Herbs comprise 90 percent of my plant inventory," she says. "There's a growing market for fresh herbs," she says. Claire is particularly proud that her potted herbs are organically grown using soil-less potting mix. They are also not dependent on chemical fertilizers or pesticides. "Our potted herbs are fertilized with fish emulsion and liquid seaweed," she adds.

The shop has 16 varieties of basil with prices ranging from P45-P75; two varieties each of coriander (P45-P75) and sage (P45-P85); four varieties of fennel (P35-P100); six varieties each of mint (P35-P55) and oregano (P35-P75); some 20 medicinal herbs like lagundi (chaste tree) and *damong maria* (mugwort) with prices pegged at P45-P75 and assorted herbs ranging from catnip to thyme, lavender and ylang-ylang (P35-P390).

"The herbs we have are germinated and grown here so they're already used to our climate and will not wither and die once brought home by customers," is Claire's oft-repeated answer to people intimidated by herbs or those who think that herb growing is strictly an American preoccupation.

During Christmas and summer breaks, GreenHearts offers cooking classes presided over by Claire's sister who shares recipes using freshly harvested herbs. "The students get to pick up the herbs themselves and that's really enjoyable," says this entrepreneur.

The soil-less potting mix which the shop started producing three years ago was a result of Claire's concern about making potted plants healthier. "Potted plants have to deal with the diseases, pests and weeds that come with the soil, and such aggravations as the soil getting hard or compacted over time so that water and air find it difficult to get to the roots."

Hitting the right formula, however, took time and hard work. "I did research and tested several formulas," Claire reveals. "From my readings, all the cited ingredients were imported ones. I decided to look for local substitutes—all organic and naturally occurring materials—so the price would not be that expensive." It took sometime to get the right mix which was then offered at the Quezon City shop. To appease out of town customers who complained about the distance they had to go for the potting mix, Claire started marketing her potting mix under the name "Plantastic" in supermarkets and hardware chains like Ace and Handyman.

Apart from herbs and potting mix, GreenHearts also sells decorative pots, garden tools, decors, books, magazines, how-to's gardening brochures, wind chimes, pinwheels and plants you'd hardly encounter in Manila like the *as-is* (sandpaper vine). The rough leaves of this plant are used to scrub and smoothen bamboo and wooden floors and chairs.

"Once in a while, I'd go with my husband, Ardie, to nearby provinces to source plants," says Claire. "We'd ask their names, then I'd do research to know more about them," She labels plants on display at the shop with their common and scientific names and includes a short description of what the plants can do. For instance, do you know that cockroaches do not like the smell of fresh pandan leaves?

Serendipity seems to come naturally to GreenHearts. Its logo, a four-leaf clover with each green leaf shaped like a heart was something that Claire used to doodle as a kid. Was it destiny? Who can tell? One thing's sure though: Claire is a certified lover of all things green. "Gardening is both relaxing and rewarding. There are days you may feel like everything and everyone have given up on you. But when you see your plants in bloom, you feel wonderful again."

GreenHearts is open daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., with phone number (02) 411-68-68.

Art

Paglalakbay, Aris Cecilio Bagtas' acrylic renditions of the various scenes that are staples of celebrations in Obando, Bulacan, at the Renaissance Art Gallery, 4/L, SM Megamall A until Sept. 29.

Still Moments: A Glimpse of Japan, by Flair, an exhibit of 12 color photo reproductions, Starbucks Coffee, 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati (upstairs level), until Sept. 30. The framed and matted photographs are outdoor color pictures taken during the Cherry Blossom season around the city of Kyoto, Japan in April of 1997.

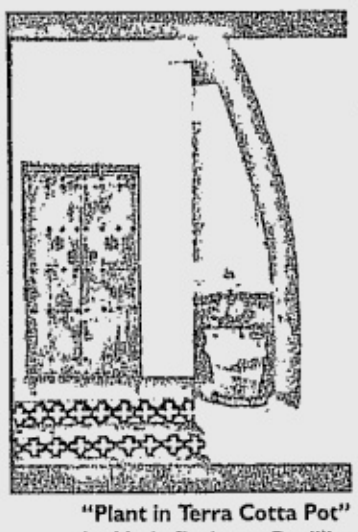
"Paper Bag I" by Sandra Fabie-Gfeller, on view at the Pinto Art Gallery

Between Grinds, large-scale monochromatic abstractions in acrylic on canvas by Dindo Martinez at the Magnet Gallery Makati, Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas Avenue cor. Sedeño Street, Makati City until Oct. 7.

Doors with Verses, Linda Enriquez Panlilio's oil paintings of doors which are imaginatively complemented by verses from some of the country's top poets, until Oct. 9 at the InterContinental Manila Lobby Art Cafe, Makati City.

Boston Gallery (72-A Boston St., Cubao, QC) presents three diverse art exhibits by **Anthony Palomo, Tin Garcia** and the **Colorum Project** until Oct. 8. At the Lower Gallery, watercolorist Palomo exhibits a new series of paintings that reflect his thought from his recent sojourn to Europe. Garcia confronts the idea of Self in her self-portrait drawings at the Alcove. On view at the Upper Gallery is a collection of wall-bound assemblages and sculptures from the Colorum Project.

Kiss Goodbye to Breast Cancer II, a photo exhibit featuring images of 15 women who have triumphed in the battle against breast cancer taken by 16 of the country's top photographers, Oct. 1-15 at the 4/L of Shangri-La Plaza Mall.



"Plant in Terra Cotta Pot" by Linda Enriquez Panlilio, on view at the Inter Continental Lobby Art Cafe

Music

The Manila Chamber Orchestra Arts Festival presents a **Flute and Opera concert** on Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m. at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCIBank Tower I, Makati Avenue cor. H.V. dela Costa Street, Makati City. Featured artists are Ray Sison (flutist), Kay Balajadia (soprano) and Rudolf Golez (pianist) who will perform pieces by Bach, Rachmaninoff, Chopin, Albeniz, Handel, Liszt and many more. For tickets, call 818-1403 or 840-7000 loc. 2630.

Ramon Acoymo, international prizewinner and present chair of the UP College of Music, Department of Voice of Dance, is the featured soloist in **Carmina Burana** with the Philippines Philharmonic Orchestra and the Philippines Madrigal Singers on Oct. 3, 4 and 5 at the CCP Main Theater. The UP College of Music will also sponsor the First Intercollegiate Vocal Summit on Oct. 6, 7 p.m. at the Abelardo Hall, UP Diliman. For inquiries, call 919-6963.

Arlee Leonard, a sensational musical artist from New York, performs jazz acts at Makati Shangri-La's Lobby Lounge from Monday to Saturday, 8 to 11:45 p.m. until Nov. 5. Enjoy great company with a glass of wine or a light snack while listening to Arlee's enchanting and soothing voice. For reservations, call 813-8888 ext. 7588.

The **14th Toyota Classics: A World of Harmony** featuring the Northeast German Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Japanese conductor Koji Kawamoto will be held at the Cultural Center of the Philippines on Oct. 7 at 7:30 p.m. Featured soloists are German violinist Susanna Henkel and Philippine soprano Rachelle Gerodias. Tickets available at the Ticketworld outlets in major National Bookstore branches, Robinsons Department Store, Tower Records and Music Museum. For inquiries, call 891-5610.

Onstage

Ang Negosyante ng Venesiya, one of Shakespeare's most popular plays translated to Filipino by Rolando S. Tinio, will be staged at the CCP Tanghalang Aurelio V. Tolentino on Sept. 28, Oct. 4 and 5 at 3 p.m., Oct. 3 and 4 at 8 p.m. For reservations, call Tanghalang Pilipino Office at 832-3661 or 832-1125 loc. 1620 to 1621 on Tuesdays to Saturdays.

Gantimpala Theater Foundation presents Jomar Fleras' *Kanser* based on Dr. Jose Rizal's powerful novel, "Noli Me Tangere." The production runs on Oct. 3, 4 and 5, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the St. Cecilia's Hall, St. Scholastica's College, Vito Cruz, Manila. The play runs for the whole month of October (every Friday, Saturday and Sunday) in several venues namely the AFP Theater in Quezon City, RFC Cinema Theater in Las Piñas City and in Cabuyao Theater in Laguna. For inquiries, call 899-5745 and 896-3503.

Laughter Is the Best Medicine, an evening of music and comedy on Oct. 2 at the Comfort Room, 2/F, Jupiter Place Building, Jupiter St., Bel-Air, Makati City, with an opening acoustic sound of Belcanto at 8:30 p.m., magic man Lou Hilario and a night with the comedy diva Tessie Tomas. For reservations, call 897-9411.

Atbp

The **Gumersindo Garcia Memorial Lecture** kicks off the 40th anniversary celebration of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines. On Sept. 30, the memorial lecture features Justice Romeo Capulong, Ad Litem Judge of United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and Dr. Kathryn Peothig, Professor of Global Studies at California State University Monterey Bay. The lecture is open to the public and will be hosted by the UCCP Ellinwood Church, Vasquez St., Malate, Manila. For inquiries, call 926-9760 / 929-3745 or e-mail nccp-ga@philonline.com, lizablamis@hotmail.com or text us by typing: NCCP <space> your message or inquiry and send it to 2960.

There will be a **Midwives Convention** on Oct. 10-11 at the Manila Hotel with the theme "Healthy Lifestyle." For inquiries and reservations, call 633-8948 or visit 724 Cityland Shaw Tower, Shaw Boulevard cor. Saint Francis St., Mandaluyong City.

Basic Holistic Yoga class at the Center for Health and Creative Arts runs on Oct. 2, 9, 16 and 23, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Learn the basic postures of Hatha yoga with emphasis on controlled breathing for relaxation, fitness, flexibility and general well-being. For details, call 434-5381 or 0919-7405791.

The cast of Gantimpala Theater Foundation's "Kanser," onstage at St. Scholastica's College Manila

A **Hands-on Introductory Course on Polyester Resign** (figurine making, fiberglass, stained glass, lamination, encapsulation and synthetic granite) will be held on Oct. 2-4. For details, call Polymer Products at 671-9837.

A **Marketing Your School seminar-workshop** will be held on Oct. 5, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the ACCM Building, 102 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Seminar fee is P1,295 inclusive of workbook, snacks and certificate. Reservations accepted until Oct. 3. For details, call 823-2615 or text 0919-8270776.

***"Tindera"* by Aris Cecilio Bagtas, on view at the Renaissance Art Gallery**

Children in Exile by young writer Vincent C. Sales is now out in bookstores. The book is a collection of short fiction about the painful process of growing up and finding one's true self, of love, friendship and letting go, and of discovery and acceptance. It is published by Deleatur Publications and is available at Powerbooks and Fully Booked.

Basic Introduction to Holistic Massage, a two-day workshop on the integrative approach to therapeutic massage, to be held on Oct. 13 and 14 at the Good Shepherd Convent, Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City. Registration ongoing until Oct. 10. For inquiries, call 434-5381.

Businessmaker Academy's calendar of seminars for October: Personal Money Management with Introduction to Investing (Oct. 3); Effective Sales Communication Techniques (Oct. 3 or 18); Effective Events Planning and Management (Oct. 3 or 24); Effective Inventory Management (Oct. 4); Creative Bead Accessories for Fun and Profit (Oct. 4, 10 or 25); How to Start and Manage Your Own Business (Oct. 4 or 17); Effective Business Writing (Oct. 10); Guide to Accounting for Non-Accountants (Oct. 10 or 25); Effective Customer Service (Oct. 11); Effective Leadership & Supervisory Skills Development (Oct. 11); Creative Balloon Arrangements for Fun and Profit (Oct. 11 or 24); Oral Presentation Techniques for Business (Oct. 17); Personal Image Enhancement & Personality Development for Women (Oct. 17 or 31); Creative Floral Arrangement for Weddings and parties (Oct. 18); Effective Collection Techniques (Oct. 18); Creative Candy-making for Fun and Profit (Oct. 23); Creative Photography (Oct. 24); Creative Writing (Oct. 25); Creative Box Art (Oct. 30); How to Find, Start and Succeed in a Franchise Business (Oct. 31); Creative Gift Baskets, Ribbons and Wrappings (Oct. 31). To be held at Businessmaker Academy, Suite 1503A West Tower, PSE Building (Tektite). For inquiries, call 687-4445 or 687-3416.

The participating breast cancer survivors of "Kiss Goobye to Breast Cancer II" photo exhibit, on view at the Shangri-La Plaza

To celebrate the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of the animals and the environment, the following **animal blessings** would be held: Oct. 4, 10 a.m. —Animal Blessing at Mary the Queen Parish courtyard in Greenhills; Oct. 4, 12 p.m.—Special Mass and Animal Blessing at Edsa Shrine to be officiated by Bishop Socrates B. Villegas; Oct. 5, 12 p.m. —Special Mass and Animal Blessing at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Doña Juana Rodriguez, New Manila. To raise funds for its animal shelter, PAWS is holding a halloween pet parade at the Corinthian Gardens Clubhouse on Oct. 31, 3 p.m.

Zero-In Lecture + Series, meant to encourage interdisicplinary discussions and dynamic exchanges of ideas, will hold the following activities: Oct. 4—World Animal Day Celebration, a talk and demonstration of dog trainers and veterinarians at the Museo Pambata; Octo. 11—Storytelling Session: Papel de Liha at the Museo Pambata; Oct. 18—Art Workshop: Finger Painting Session at the Museo Pambata; Oct. 25, 2 to 4 p.m.—'Writing Home: Fil-Am and 'Filipino Writers in the US with Prof. Oscar Campomanes at the Lopez Museum; Oct. 25—Storytelling Session: Rosa Albina at the Museo Pambata.

Experience the ultimate dance party and a whole new dimension in clubbing at Clubber's Guide, 610 J. Nakpil St., Malate, Manila with resident DJ Gillette Yaneza and DJ Benjo Durado. For reservations, call 450-1592.

Dulaang UP is looking for talented individuals to act in Moliere's "The Imaginary Invalid" and Eugene O'Neill's "The Iceman Cometh." **Auditions for "The Imaginary Invalid"** will be on Oct. 1 and 2 from 7 p.m. onwards at Rm. 132 Palma Hall, UP Diliman. Please prepare resumé and a 2-3 minute monologue preferably from a Moliere play. "The Iceman Cometh" will hold auditions on Nov. 4-6. For inquiries, call 926-1349.

X-manila

The **2nd Lipa Cathedral Fund Raising Golf Tournament** will be held on Oct. 10 at the Mount Malarayat Golf & Country Club, Lipa City, for the benefit of the San Sebastian Cathedral Pipe Organ Foundation. The Foundation was established to ensure perpetual care and maintenance of the pipe organ, finance the music education of organists, and support the regular concerts to be staged in the community to help promote musical art and culture. Sponsors of the tournament are entitled to free golf tickets. For details, call Bing at (043) 756-55-90 (telefax).

***Atubangay*: Making the Local** features works in mixed media, sculpture, painting, installation, video and performance art by matweaver Rosalia Fajardo and sculptor Francisco Zabala; filmmakers Mariano Montelibano III and Peque Gallaga; potter Joel Hufanda and painter/sculptor PG Zoluaga, painters Jutsze Pamate and Babbu Wenceslao, installation artist Christine Manguerra and furniture designer Kenneth Cobonpue and painter Jonathan Verga, at the SM City Cebu Art Center in Cebu City until Oct. 12. For details, call (032) 413-6139.

De La Salle University-Dasmariñas has launched its annual search for outstanding Caviteños through the **12th *Gawad Bayani***. The search is open to any Filipino citizen whose roots can be traced to Cavite. A nominee must have outstanding achievements or services for the growth and development of society with emphasis on Cavite. Candidates must possess the following: an exemplary integrity and morality in both public and private life; a living model of the values and beliefs cherished by the Lasallian family. Nomination forms are available at the office of the Vice President for Academics of DLSU-D. Deadline for nominations is Dec. 5. For details, call (02) 844-7832 or (046) 416-4531.

Jazz artist Arlee Leonard performs at the Makati Shangri-La

Sandra Fabie-Gfeller comes out with her first solo exhibit of oils in **Paper Bag** at the Gallery I of Pinto Art Gallery in Antipolo from Sept. 28 to Nov. 9. For details, call 697-1015.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

LoveNotes ...from page 4

make it happen. You never asked for any commitment before you gave yourself to him, but I believe you deserve to know, at least, what it all meant to him.

You are making your own conclusions from a relationship that was never clearly defined right from the beginning. Rizelle, I know that Nick is a sensible man. He probably just doesn't know how to go about dealing with his own feelings when they get too strong. If you were able to bring him to the peak of your physical relationship, I know that you can also try to help him bring out the emotional aspect of it.

This is the time in your friendship that you really need to talk. It may be difficult to find the right match to strike the fire, but you have to at least try. You would know him better than the other girls and you would also probably know the right approach in striking a conversation with him.

Rizelle, I know that you want more from this relationship than what he could probably offer you. Your physical closeness may have meant something to him but it could also be just passionate moments driven not by love but by the desire to express what you keep locked up in yourselves. There is only one way to know. Talk about your relationship but do not impose anything on him. Tell him what you feel and let him know how special he is to you. Then listen not only to what he says but more importantly to what he doesn't say. I am confident that you'll find out where you really stand and make a choice from there.

Let us always remember that real love brings out the best in all of us. It is the kind of love that makes us do good and feel good. It is the kind of love worth fighting for. Rizelle, this could be a long shot. But I know you wouldn't want to miss this feeling again. Give it your best try and pray to God for signs to show if it is meant to be. I know your are not afraid to get into a commitment but this relationship may mean not getting it at all and moving on without it. You just have to be prepared. You could get what you want or lose everything you hoped for. Let it matter for a while but more that anything else, be thankful that once in your life, you have felt so right about a person, and that feeling stayed in your heart and made you experience real love even for just a fleeting moment. You may lose this now but love will always come in our lives again, in God's own time and place.

By Jess Abrera

Meteor Garden

Great GI be Connections

Do more, be more with G-Plan opti-SIM

Do you always find yourself chasing time to accommodate all the things you have to do? When the corporate world seems like a battlefield full of tight deadlines, meetings and appointments, it becomes virtually impossible for you to sneak in even a short break for yourself. Wouldn't it be great to have these moments to de-stress? Globe Handyphone gives you a life-enhancing tool with its introduction of the G-Plan opti-SIM, the world's most powerful SIM that is set to change the way you live your life!

The new Globe G-Plan opti-SIM allows you to manage your life better as it puts order in your hectic schedule. With a built-in MyOrganizer function, the G-Plan opti-SIM acts like a personal assistant in your Globe Handyphone. It lets you keep track of your meetings, gym workout schedule, family gatherings, and other important events. By allowing you to maximize your time, the G-Plan opti-SIM is the key in order to have a balanced life. Now you can even have more time to prepare the romantic gourmet dinner that you've been planning for so long!

The G-Plan opti-SIM grants Globe Handyphone subscribers the freedom from taxing lifestyles with its 128K capacity. The unrivalled power of the G-Plan opti-SIM is loaded with 750 phonebook memory and 100 inbox text messages. It helps you arrange your list of contacts into folders that you can label as business, personal and others for easy access to important phone numbers. You can also keep track of developments in each area of your life by saving important text messages into different folders such as "work" and "leisure." The G-Plan opti-SIM keeps you on top of work matters and enriches your relationships as well.

As you wear many hats everyday, multi-tasking is made easier with the G-Plan opti-SIM. Now you can manage your different roles as the company decision-maker, your girlfriend's gourmet cook, a golfing bud, a comic book enthusiast, or head of a civic organization. With just a few clicks on your Globe Handyphone, you're set to conquer even the most chaotic of schedules!

Seizing the optimum potential of your life is no longer a luxury you don't have time for. With the Globe G-Plan opti-SIM, the world's most powerful SIM, you now have the power to do more!

The G-Plan opti-SIM is exclusive to G-Plan subscribers. It comes FREE with a new G-Plan subscription or at an affordable P600 when you upgrade your current SIM card at any Globe Telecom Business Center and the HUB.

The World's Most Powerful SIM

Better living through G-Plan opti-SIM